

# INFORMATION

ISSUED BY THE

**ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH REFUGEES IN GREAT BRITAIN**

W. Rosenstock

## UNITY IN DISPERSION

### Meeting of Council of Jews from Germany

It has always been one of the distinctive qualities of the German Jews that they were endowed with a strong sense of solidarity. Even now, almost 45 years after the beginning of their enforced emigration, the organisations built up by them in most countries of resettlement are still active, and the same applies to their world-wide representative body, the Council of Jews from Germany. The undiminished strength of the Council and its affiliated organisations became manifest anew, when on October 9, their delegates from Israel, U.S.A., Britain, France, Belgium and the Netherlands met in London.

It would exceed the scope of this report, if we described in detail the history of the Council. Yet a few salient points have to be mentioned in brief. The Council was founded shortly after the war by the organisations of former German Jews in Israel (Irgun Oley Merkaz Europa), U.S.A. (American Federation of Jews from Central Europe) and Britain (AJR) under the presidency of Dr. Leo Baeck and almost immediately after its inception joined by corresponding organisations in other countries. One of the main concerns during the first post-war years was the safeguarding of the rights of the victims of Nazi persecution in the field of restitution and compensation. This work was not restricted to negotiations with the authorities concerned on general questions of legislation. It soon turned out that there was also a need for an institution which could represent the claims of indigent individual victims. Thus, the United Restitution Organisation (URO), one of the largest legal agencies in history, came into being mainly at the initiative of the Council and with the financial aid of the major Jewish relief organisations. Another offshoot of the Council is the Leo Baeck Institute, which was founded in 1955 to preserve the spiritual heritage of Central European Jewry. During the 22 years of its existence, the LBI has produced more than 200 publications pertinent to the various aspects of Jewish life on the Continent from the emancipation to the decline and ultimate extinction after 1933.

In 1956, the Council lost its first President, Dr. Leo Baeck, and Dr. Siegfried Moses became his successor. After his death in 1974, it was decided that instead of a single new president, three joint chairmen, resident in the countries of each of the three founder organisations, Israel, U.S.A. and Britain, should be at the helm of the Council.

The meeting on October 9 was presided over by the joint chairmen, Mr. Heinz Gerling (Israel) and Dr. Curt C. Silberman (U.S.A.). At the beginning, Dr. Silberman paid tribute to the memory of two deceased leading Hon.

Officers of the Council, Mr. Werner M. Behr (Joint Chairman) and Professor Dr. Rudolf Callmann (member of the Presidium). As successor to Mr. Behr, Dr. F. E. Falk, Vice-Chairman of the AJR, was elected Joint Chairman, and Mr. C. T. Marx, chairman of the AJR, was co-opted to the Presidium.

#### Continuity of Social Work

In his Financial Report, Dr. W. Rosenstock, Hon. Secretary of the Council, commented on the audited accounts (1975 and 1976) of the Council's financial instrument, the Leo Baeck Charitable Trust. The assets of this Trust have derived mainly from the heirless and communal Jewish property in Germany, recovered by the so-called successor organisations and, in the course of the past years, were distributed among the Council's affiliates to be used for their charitable work. However, the work of the successor organisations has now practically come to an end, and with very few exceptions, no further payments have become available. This creates serious problems for the Council's affiliates in the continuation of their social work, especially in view of the steadily rising number of old and frail people in their midst who need care and attention in special Homes. The delegates discussed the possibilities of various attempts at alleviating the position and, whilst so far no solution could be found, the efforts in this direction will continue.

Another point under discussion was the safeguarding of the future work of the Leo Baeck Institute. In this matter, too, various propositions are under active consideration. A further problem which, though not strictly within the terms of reference of the Council, was discussed at the meeting, concerned the Wiener Library. The Council is officially represented on the Board of the Wiener Library by Mr. Fred Lessing, Mr. Heinz Gerling and Mr. Arnold Paucker; furthermore, Mr. C. T. Marx was recently co-opted to the Board. As readers know, it is intended to transfer the Wiener Library to the University of Tel Aviv in a few years' time. All delegates agreed that it would be highly desirable to have the Library kept in London, because it has become an indispensable source of information for authors, politicians and mass media in this country and on the Continent. Throughout the past years, the Council has paid substantial annual subsidies to the Wiener Library. Yet they alone do not suffice to cover the deficit in the long run. On the other hand, the Jews in this country, usually known for their generosity, have not come forward with adequate help, despite strenuous efforts in this direction. These efforts will certainly

go on, and the Hon. Officers of the AJR have also discussed ways and means of co-operation and started to raise contributions among their close friends. The meeting was informed that the decision of the transfer was not absolutely final and that, among other things, much depended on the chance of raising money in this country. Yet even if a transfer should prove unavoidable at some time or another, ways and means might be explored to keep material, especially in the field of Nazism and neo-Fascist movements, accessible in this country, be it in the original or by way of microfilms.

In connection with the problems of restitution and related subjects reference was made to the new legislation on German social security payments. As readers of AJR Information know there was at one stage the danger that new applications from emigrated persons who had been in employment outside the present territory of the German Federal Republic, might be rejected. This danger, as we reported in our October issue, could be averted. Yet to achieve this, strenuous efforts had to be made by the representative bodies concerned, and the Council was in constant contact with them when the new law was under discussion. Though there are at present no signs that the implementation of any other compensation and related laws might be in jeopardy, the experience during this year's summer months re-affirmed the indispensable function of the Council as the guardian of the interests of the Nazi victims.

#### Concern about German neo-Nazi Trends

The Meeting also discussed in great detail the recent manifestations of the rising anti-semitism and neo-Nazism in Germany. It was decided to write a letter to the German Federal Minister of the Interior, expressing the Council's grave concern about these trends. "Terror and demagoguery", the letter reads, "as well as incidents such as, e.g., unimpeded rallies of old Nazis, desecration of Jewish cemeteries, attempts by various media at glorifying the Hitler period, the symbolical 'burning of Jews' by students of the Officers' Academy with the knowledge of their superiors, the daubing of buildings with Nazi symbols are only too reminiscent of the experience of recent history. Though, so far, the groups responsible for such occurrences are numerically small, we are, in the light of the happenings of the past, alarmed by the threat to democracy which may emanate from demagoguery and prejudice". The letter, copies of which were sent to the Federal President and the Federal Chancellor, expressed the Council's confident hope that the German Government and Parliament will take adequate measures to prevent the spreading of such incidents and do their utmost to ensure that they ultimately cease.

Another point on the agenda of the Meeting concerned the Council's scheme to record and publish a history of the immigration of

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## UNITY IN DISPERSION

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the German Jews into their various countries of resettlement. So far, the research has been concentrated on four countries: Israel, U.S.A., Britain and France. This does not preclude the extension of the work to other countries at a later stage. It was reported that during the past two years, the rather complicated research work had made good progress. Contributors from France and Israel have already produced draft manuscripts and the monograph about the position in Britain is nearing completion. It is hoped that, after the unavoidably long period of preparation, the final goal will be reached in the not too distant future.

The atmosphere of the Meeting and the great amount of practical achievements and plans for the future re-affirmed the strength of the Council. The tasks are as manifold as they have always been. They include the safeguarding of our rights, the preservation of our cultural heritage, the continuation of our social work in the countries of resettlement, a watchful eye on political dangers and, last but not least, the recording of our recent history as long as the witnesses of this period are still available.

### WRITING ON THE WALL An Effective Documentation

Such were the Nazi crimes that they now seem easier to disbelieve than to believe, and so there is perhaps, in some ways, nothing surprising in the current rash of literature (so-called) trying to deny the undeniable. The historical evidence is increasingly being distorted and insolent whitewashers of Hitler pose another threat to Jewish life. The nature and extent of this threat are ably presented in a brochure published by the Committee of Auschwitz Camps Survivors in Israel—*The Holocaust is being denied: The answer of Auschwitz survivors.*

The author, Erich Kulka, an acknowledged expert on the subject, surveys the subversive stuff now being produced not only in Germany but particularly in this country and the U.S.A. He warns against the temptation to ignore it, especially as the horrors are viewed with growing indifference and the lies may serve to soothe the guilty consciences. The danger assumes immediate significance when the champions of neo-Nazism link up (as they are here shown to do) with Arab "anti-Zionists".

Kulka has provided an effective documentation which would warrant an expansion of the 32 mimeographed pages into a more substantial volume. On some points it might be usefully amended too. Albert Speer, for example, has recently been more explicit in his condemnation of the crimes; on the other hand, more than one reputable historian has failed to see the wood for trees. There is no mistaking what Kulka calls "this Writing on the Wall", and we cannot say we have not been warned.

### DUTCH CERTIFICATES FOR "ARYANS"

The Dutch authorities have instructed the population offices of towns and villages no longer to certify to applicants who want to do business with Arab countries that they are non-Jewish. This has been repeatedly done in recent years to satisfy demands made by Arab customers.

### ERHOEHUNG DER DEUTSCHEN ENTSCHAEDIGUNGSRENTEN

Die Verordnung ueber die Erhoehung der Entschaedigungsrenten, die zur Zeit der Drucklegung dieser Ausgabe noch nicht vorliegt, wird im Bundesgesetzblatt im November oder Dezember dieses Jahres veroeffentlicht werden. Nach dem uns bekannten Entwurf werden Entschaedigungsrenten um ca. 5% erhoeht mit Ausnahme der Berufsschadens-Hoechstrenten, deren Erhoehung nur ca. 4% betraegt, und der Gesundheits-und Lebensschadens-Mindestrenten, die um ca. 10% erhoeht werden. Die Erhoehung der Renten wird rueckwirkend zum 1. Februar 1977 erfolgen. Die Entschaedigungsbehoerden haben bereits begonnen, die Rentenerhoehungen vorzunehmen. Die Durchfuehrung dieser Aktion wird sich wie auch in vergangenen Jahren auf einige Wochen oder Monate erstrecken. Hier sind einige Beispiele der erhoehten monatlichen Renten:

Berufsschadens-Hoechstrenten	DM 1.821,—
Berufsschadens-Hoechstwitwenrenten	DM 1.093,—
Lebensschadens-Witwenmindestrenten	DM 706,—
Mindestrenten fuer Gesundheitsschaden:	
Minderung der Erwerbsfaehigkeit 25%	bis 39% — DM 354,—
Minderung der Erwerbsfaehigkeit 80%	u.darueber DM 879,—

### OESTERREICHISCHE SOZIALVERSICHERUNGSRENTEN ERHOEHET

Die Renten aus der oesterreichischen Sozialversicherung werden vom 1. Januar 1978 ab um 6-9% erhoeht.

### ANNUITIES FOR DAMAGE TO HEALTH

#### New List of Recognised Concentration Camps

In case of incarceration in a concentration camp for one year or longer the claimant does, according to the Federal Indemnification Law, not have to prove that a 25% reduction of earning capacity, if it exists, is due to Nazi persecution. Places of incarceration which are recognised as concentration camps are enumerated in a Government ordinance. Recently, an ordinance has been promulgated, extending the number of recognised concentration camps. In so far as on account of that extension a claimant can prove incarceration in one or more concentration camps for a total period of one year or more, he or she can claim an annuity for damage to health, provided his or her reduction of earning capacity comes at present to 25% or more. The fact that an earlier application has been dismissed does not stand in the way of a fresh application if the dismissal of the earlier application was due to non-recognition of a concentration camp which is now included in the recently issued ordinance. The time limit for submission of applications expires on March 24, 1978. Applications have to be submitted to the competent indemnification Authority (Entschaedigungsbehoerde). Those who believe that they may have a claim and wish to have further explanations may ask United Restitution Office (London) Ltd. 183/189 Finchley Road, London, N.W.3 in writing for a leaflet, which is available in English or in German, and attach a prepaid envelope.

### JEWISH ASPECTS ON BRITISH TV

All three Television Channels have recently shown a number of programmes of particular interest to Jewish watchers. BBC-2's "Long Search", which has been describing the great faiths of the world for many weeks, had one evening devoted to the "Chosen People". It dealt mainly with Jewish Orthodoxy and showed Jewish life in Israel through the eyes of Dr. Pinchas Peli, a descendant of a long line of rabbis and a sixth generation inhabitant of Jerusalem. It showed a particular slice, if not the whole of Jewishness. The Holocaust was referred to by Elie Wiesel, a survivor of Auschwitz who is now professor of Humanities at Boston University and who has written a number of books on his experiences and tried to work out their significance. Nobody who watched the programme can have been unmoved by his story of the three rabbis in a concentration camp who sat in judgement on God for three days for the wrongs he had done to his people. They found him guilty. Then the rabbi who had conducted the trial, got up and said: "And now let us pray".

ITV showed a programme on the "Jewish Lobby" in the United States which stated that the United Jewish Appeal had raised \$460 million last year, that American Jews exercised a strong pressure on the U.S. Government to go on supporting Israel. Rabbi Schindler who was described as "president of an umbrella body of 31 major Jewish organisations even more powerful than the official Jewish Lobby" said that American Jewry was committed to Israel because it had failed to save European Jews under the Nazis and it was determined to prevent another Holocaust destroying the Jewish State.

In another ITV programme three young boys, one of them a sixth form pupil of a London school, were interviewed and asked why they had joined the National Front. One of them said the Front's Youth Movement had recruited many members. Among the reasons they gave were muggings by Black immigrants. Miss Janet Street-Porter, the interviewer, warned the boys against the intolerance of the Front and said its chairman, John Tyndall was a former Nazi and Martin Webster, the national activities organiser, had written an article "Why I am a Nazi". Children of a Basildon school who were also interviewed, unananimously condemned the violence and prejudice preached by the Front, but said that Left-wing extremists were just as bad.

A BBC-2 Newsday programme showed an impassioned discussion at Sheffield University which ended with a defeat of the anti-Zionist programme. Sue Slipman, president of the National Students Union, the Jewish daughter of an East End taxi driver and a Communist, said that she had been to Israel and disagreed with many things she had seen, but that she insisted on freedom of speech for every student whatever his or her opinions and that she therefore opposed recent anti-Zionist manifestations and resolutions.

### ANTI-ISRAEL BROADCAST ON GERMAN RADIO AND TV

The West German Radio and TV Service has received many complaints against a film sent out in early October which was the result of co-operation between German and Palestinian film producers and written by the Israeli Edna Politi. The film "For the Palestinians" had met with a great deal of criticism when it was first transmitted in 1974, and its repetition during the days of new terrorist activities was regarded as highly provocative. It refers to terrorists as "resistance fighters" and to the Israelis as thieves of Arab land who are threatened with underground fights. Arab schoolchildren are shown being taught to be ready to sacrifice their lives resisting the Israeli occupation forces. Arab terror is called "an act of despair".

## HOME NEWS

## Anglo-Judaica

### AJR PROTEST AGAINST ADMISSION OF SS MEN

When the visit of former Waffen-SS officers to this country was imminent, the AJR sent the following telegram to the Home Secretary: "As representative body of victims of Nazi persecution, nearly all of whom have lost their relatives and many of whom endured the cruelties of the SS guards in concentration camps, we urgently request refusal of admission of former SS officers to the U.K. in their attempt to whitewash their wartime activities". Subsequently, the Home Secretary ordered the SS officers to leave the country but, unfortunately, former Waffen-SS officer Hubert Meyer was still given an opportunity to address a press conference in London.

The AJR also sent a letter of thanks to Mr. Winston Churchill, M.P., for impressively refuting Meyer's allegations in the BBC "Nation-wide" programme on November 16.

### THE QUEEN THANKS JEWS

The Duke of Gloucester and the Lord Mayor of Westminster attended a thanksgiving service at the West London Synagogue in the presence of 500 people. Rabbi Hugo Gryn, assisted by Rabbi Jacqueline Tabick and Rabbi Daniel Smith, paid tribute to the Queen who, like her father, represented the passionate love of liberty and the spirit of nobility and self-sacrifice which saved the world from Nazism. He read the Queen's reply to the congregation's Silver Jubilee message which said that she greatly valued this expression of loyalty.

### 60 YEARS BALFOUR DECLARATION

Leaders of the three major political parties attended a crowded reception at the Savoy Hotel to mark the diamond jubilee of the Balfour Declaration. The guests included Mr. Julian Amery, MP, whose father Leo Amery, had been instrumental in drafting the declaration; Dr. Selina Sokolow, daughter of the famous Zionist leader; and many politicians who stressed the close ties between the British people and the State of Israel. A Balfour Diamond Jubilee Trust was set up.

### PRO-ARAB PRESIDENT OF LIBERALS

Mr. Christopher Mayhew, the pro-Arab MP who switched his allegiance from Labour to Liberal in 1974, failed to be elected the party's president. The new president, Mr. Michael Steed, however, is also a prominent pro-Palestinian. He is a lecturer in politics at Manchester University and a friend of the editor of "Free Palestine," Mr. Louis Eaks, a former Young Liberal with whom he toured Syria recently.

### NO PLACE FOR N.F. IN UNIONS

The East Midlands Region of the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs are threatening to expel members who join the National Front. Mr. Teague, divisional officer, said it was the union's objective to explain to such members that they are in a Nazi organisation. "If they still insist on being members we shall know that they are in favour of a Nazi organisation and they will be expelled." The union has some 16,000 members in the district, ranging from biochemists to insurance staff.

With acknowledgement to the news service of the Jewish Chronicle.

### THE PRIME MINISTER AND JEWISH INTERESTS

When the Labour Friends of Israel celebrated their 20th anniversary in Brighton, the Prime Minister, Mr. James Callaghan, said he was naturally disappointed at the defeat of the Labour Government in Israel, but he stressed that Britain's devotion to Israel transcends governments and will remain the policy of the British Government. Having visited Israel, he greatly appreciated her contribution to the Middle East and through it to the democratic world.

Mr. Callaghan was also the first British Prime Minister to attend a session of the Jewish Board of Deputies and to address its members. He said the Jews in Britain had shown that it is possible in a modern society to be part of the nation as a whole and yet to retain an essential cultural and religious identity. "The Jewish community," he said, "is so much part of our national life that it is easy to forget that even today the vast majority of British Jews are either refugees themselves or the children or grandchildren of those who fled to Britain from persecution and terror on the mainland of Europe."

### JEWS SIGN NOMINATION OF FRONT CANDIDATE

The Jewish Board of Deputies has declared that the National Front used misrepresentation to make a Jewish couple, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Levitt, sign the nomination of a National Front candidate. Dr. Jacob Gewirtz, the Board's Group Relations Director, said he knew of some 20 cases where people had been made to sign forms which they thought were in support of some good cause, but which were really such nomination forms. The name "National Front" had not been mentioned. Dr. Gewirtz thought it possible that the Front deliberately tried to create the impression that there were Jews supporting its activities.

### HOTEL EXPLAINS N.F. FUNCTION

The Royal Garden Hotel, Kensington, has issued a statement saying that the National Front had booked rooms for a recent function by means of subterfuge. The booking was made "in the name of respected clients and its true nature was discovered too late on that day." Every endeavour would be made to ensure that no N.F. functions would be held at the hotel in future.

### C.B.F.'s Importance

At the Central British Fund's Appeal dinner at the Savoy Hotel, £40,000 was raised. Mr. Victor Waddington, president of the appeal, stressed that Jews in 17 different countries needed aid and that the C.B.F.'s work was second in importance after Israel. He continued to say that it would be genocide to let people die of hunger. "The miracle of Statehood does not solve all problems." Lord Nathan announced his retirement after six years as C.B.F. chairman. His successor is Mr. Kenneth Rubens.

### J.N.F. Moves

The Jewish National Fund which has been at Rex House, Regent Street, for many years, has moved its administrative and fund-raising offices to Harold Poster House, Kingsbury Circle, London, N.W.9 (telephone 204 9911).

### New Rabbi for West London Synagogue

Israeli-born Rabbi Daniel Smith has been appointed associate rabbi of the West London Synagogue, Upper Berkeley Street. His father is a psychologist who brought his family to this country from Slovakia in 1939. They went to Israel in 1948, but returned to Britain in 1956. Rabbi Smith studied psychology, philosophy, English and astronomy at Keele University and edited the university's newspaper, but he remained true to a decision to become a rabbi which he made when he was 15 years old.

### Synagogue Jubilee

The golden Jubilee of Ilford Federation Synagogue was celebrated with a thanksgiving service at which the Emeritus Chief Rabbi Brodie's book "Affirmation of Judaism" was presented to one of the guests, the Rev. Rodney Sawtell, minister of the local church whose hall was loaned to the synagogue during rebuilding. Other recipients were the Mayor of Redbridge and the chairman of the local Council of Christians and Jews. The synagogue, founded in 1927, has a membership of 700. Its premises are used by many organisations. Among the many jubilee gifts was a donation and card from the nuns of Ursuline High School. The Queen sent a message.

### Rabbi Jacobs' Portrait

Sir Monty Finniston unveiled the portrait of Rabbi Louis Jacobs in the New London Synagogue, painted by Vienna-born artist Jacques Kupfermann who studied in America and came to London in 1968. His works are represented in many US museums, including the Museum of Modern Art.

### Gift to Freemasons

Mr. Joseph Fields, master of Lodge Shalom in Glasgow, was admitted to a Masonic Lodge Meeting with the members present in full regalia when he handed over a cheque for £3,000 for Scottish spina bifida sufferers. The money was raised by a sponsored blood donor scheme organised by Lodge Shalom and will help to buy a holiday home for spina bifida children.

### Conference of NATO Chaplains

The Rev. Malcolm Weisman, senior Jewish chaplain to H.M. Forces, presided at a session of Nato naval senior chaplains held near St. Albans. The conference was also attended by the Nato commander-in-chief, General Haig and Dr. Lancelot Fleming, former Bishop of Norwich. One of the speakers was Mrs. Masha Greenbaum who spoke of her experiences in concentration camps.

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# NEWS FROM ABROAD

## UNITED STATES

### Jewish woman wins Nobel Prize

Dr. Rosalyn Yalow, of New York, who was awarded the Nobel Prize for medicine for her part in devising a new research tool which has led to major discoveries and can trace substances in blood and tissues undetectable by other methods, is married to the son of an Orthodox rabbi and keeps a kosher home.

### Neo-Nazis in the US

There have been a number of neo-Nazi demonstrations in the United States in recent weeks. In the Californian town of San Jose two people were injured during a demonstration by 2,000 National Socialists. In St. Louis, a man was shot dead and another injured when leaving the synagogue. In a suburb of St. Louis three people were injured during a clash between members of the American National Socialist White Workers' Party and members of the committee against racism.

### Holocaust Institute

A Simon Wiesenthal Institute has been opened at the Los Angeles branch of the New York Orthodox Yeshiva university. Mr. Wiesenthal attended the opening, and the mayor of Los Angeles gave a luncheon in his honour. He will deliver an annual series of lectures at the Institute.

### Jewish Governor jailed

Mr. Marvin Mandel, 57-year-old Governor of Maryland who was first elected as successor to Mr. Spiro Agnew and re-elected twice, has been found guilty of mail fraud and racketeering and stripped of his office. He was sentenced to four years' imprisonment. He had been Maryland's first Jewish Governor during the State's 335-year history.

### AFTER MOGADISHU

West German Jews have criticised Chancellor Helmut Schmidt for expressing his thanks to Yasir Arafat, the PLO leader, because he condemned the Mogadishu hijacking.

Hostages who were freed at Mogadishu reported that the fanatical leader of the terrorists, who called himself "Martyr Mahmud" had engaged in wild anti-Jewish talks and had asked the hostages never again to buy in Jewish shops.

In London, a new Arab weekly, "Al Manar" identified on its front page the four Arab hijackers. It added that "Martyr Mahmud" was in reality Zuheir Okasha who had killed three Yemeni diplomats in London last April. This report was followed by a number of statements in British papers saying that the London police had been tipped off about Okasha's whereabouts before the murder, as he had been previously expelled from Britain, but had done nothing about it.

One of the hostages on the hijacked Luftansa plane was Czech-born Mrs. Lily Vemos, aged 54, a sister of the Rev. Ernest Levy, chazan of the Giffnock and Newlands Synagogue in Glasgow.

### PLO WALK-OUT

Members of the Palestine Liberation Organisation and Iraqi delegates left a meeting of the World Peace Movement which was to discuss a just solution of the Middle East Problem, when Mr. Arye Eliav, a Knesset member and former secretary-general of the Israeli Labour Party, made a speech and said: "I am a Zionist, a Socialist and a man of peace". Other delegates from Israel included members of the Moscow-orientated Rakah party (the so-called "New Communists").

## BRAZIL

### Synagogue for Brazilia

The synagogue, including a communal centre which has been built during the last eight years for the 90 Jewish families in Brazilia, Brazil's capital, has been inaugurated by Dr. Milnitzky, the president of the Confederation of Brazilian Jews. The site was donated by the city council.

### Dr Weizmann's bust vanishes

A bust of Dr. Chaim Weizmann, Israel's first president, which was officially unveiled in the square in front of the Governor's palace in Rio de Janeiro, has disappeared. It was removed during reconstruction work for the city's underground, but nobody knows where it has been taken.

### ANTISEMITIC BOOK BANNED IN BUENOS AIRES

The Government of Argentina has banned the book "Shulchan Aruch—the Code of the Jews" because of its antisemitic contents. The firm publishing it calls itself "Mi Lucha"—"Mein Kampf".

### WARNINGS AGAINST NEO-NAZIS

In Vienna, Mr. Simon Wiesenthal, head of the Jewish Documentation Centre, stated that he was no longer concentrating on tracking down Nazi war criminals, but rather on the activities of neo-Nazis all over the world. He is particularly worried about Nazis in the United States where he said there were now some 100 organisations which sent out Nazi propaganda to all corners of the world. He said that in Western Germany, the neo-Nazis had learned from the extreme Left how to organise themselves in small groups to combat the authority of the State. They are supported by Arab States and attack Jews and Zionists indiscriminately. Mr. Wiesenthal said that it was hopeless to work against Nazi criminals in Austria and that therefore he had asked the Government for a general amnesty for war criminals which would clarify the position.

## FRANCE

### Giscard opens Chagall Show

President Giscard d'Estaing opened an exhibition in Paris of 72 of the latest works of 90-year-old Marc Chagall. He said he was very impressed, particularly by Chagall's illustration of the "Song of Songs". After the opening, Mr. Chagall appeared in a special television interview which included an appreciation by the late Andre Malraux who likened Chagall to Delacroix and Rembrandt.

### FORMER NAZI IN DUTCH PUBLIC SERVICE

Mr. Simon Wiesenthal, head of the Vienna Documentation Centre, has drawn the attention of Dutch authorities to the fact that Dr. Zoltan Papp, once the head of the Hungarian ghetto Papa, is an employee of the Dutch State Railway. He had escaped from a prison in Hungary during the 1956 rising and sought asylum in Holland, stating that he had been imprisoned because of a clash with the police. He had, however, been imprisoned by a military court in 1951 because he commanded the national-socialist Hungarian police in charge of the Papa ghetto where Jews were assembled before transportation to Auschwitz. Dr. Papp was convicted for having ill-treated and robbed the prisoners, and even sent people to Auschwitz in cattle-trucks who had been exempted from deportation. The Dutch authorities have started an investigation.

## SENTENCE FOR PRO-NAZI IN NEW ZEALAND

Colin King-Ansell, 31, leader of New Zealand's handful of Nazi sympathisers, was sentenced in Auckland to three months' imprisonment for publishing pamphlets to incite ill-will against Jews. He has appealed against the sentence. It is the first case of its kind in the country.

## ANTI-JEWISH POSTERS IN ATHENS

For months posters alleging that "world Jewry" was behind the Jehovah Witnesses, were displayed on Greek buses. After a strong protest by the Central Board of Greek Jewish Communities who stressed that there were no connections between Jews and Jehovah Witnesses, the Greek transport minister ordered all bus operators not to display any posters with pictures and emblems of a religious nature. Archbishop Seraphim, the Greek Primate, had said that the posters were circulated by organisations outside the Church's control.

## SCANDINAVIA

In Stockholm, a 45-year-old gardener Assar Aredssen, a self-confessed Nazi, has formed a party "Sweden for the Swedes" and described himself as its "Führer". The party is opposed to all immigrants, Jews and gypsies, and demands racial purity.

## HOUSE ARREST FOR MOSCOW JEWS

A number of Jews who had planned a demonstration outside the offices of the Supreme Soviet to protest against a refusal of the authorities to grant emigration applications to Israel, were arrested. A number of them, including Miss Ida Nudel, were put under house arrest, others were detained by the police. Miss Nudel hung a yellow star from her balcony in protest against the house arrest and locked herself in. The police had to bring up a crane to remove the star. A number of the campaigners have complained to the Belgrade conference, stating that the restrictions placed on them were "a clear violation of elementary freedoms".

Dr. Arye Gutman, a nuclear scientist at the Haifa Technion, has written an open letter to the representatives of the 35 nations taking part in the Belgrade conference, stating the Soviet Union was suppressing human rights in revoking permission for his sick and elderly parents to join him in Israel. His father, 76, retired two years ago from the scientist post he held with the Leningrad Institute of Pulp and Paper. His mother was a retired economist. They had initially been given permission to leave, but were later informed that because of objections raised by the Institute, they would have to wait two years before leaving.

## PRISON FOR CZECH JEWS

At the Prague trials of the human rights activists, two non-Jews were given suspended sentences whereas two Jews involved, Mr. Ota Ornest and Mr. Jiri Lederer, received prison sentences of three years for maintaining "conspirational links" with foreign diplomats.

## CHIEF RABBI'S VISIT TO ROMANIA

Dr. Jakobovits, the Chief Rabbi who recently visited the Jews of Romania and their Chief Rabbi Dr. Rosen, has stated that he was deeply impressed by the intensity of Jewish feeling encountered. He said the Jews were on the whole well-treated and allowed to emigrate if they wanted to do so. During his visit, Dr. Jakobovits attended the rededication of the Bucharest Synagogue, which was damaged in the earthquake in March, and preached at various synagogues to large congregations. He also conferred with Patriarch Surtin, head of the Orthodox Church.

Hermann Levin Goldschmidt

# DIE FREIHEIT DES MENSCHEN

Essays von H. G. Adler

Wie ein Schluessel zu diesem gewichtigen Buch ueber "Die Freiheit des Menschen"\* liest sich der Anfangssatz des Kapitels zur "Erfahrung der Ohnmacht—Soziologie der Verfolgung": "Jeder soziologische Satz behandelt menschliche Verhaeltnisse. Die Soziologie ist demnach ein Versuch kollektiver Biographie, manchmal auch Selbstbiographie". Wobei noch die anschliessenden Saetze mitzulesen sind, die nun ausserdem deutlich machen, was die Selbstbiographie, die sich als Soziologie zum Ausdruck bringt, nicht ist oder jedenfalls nicht sein will. Der Geschichte, schreibt Adler, eigne ein stets individueller, persoenerlicher Charakter, weil sie "die Profile menschlicher Entwicklungen . . . durch Taten und Schicksal im zeitlichen Fortgang des menschheitlichen Daseins aufdeckt", waehrend die Soziologie den systematischen Strukturen nachgehe in ihrem "ueberpersoenerlichen Charakter". Aber "Selbstbiographie" ist und bleibt Adlers Soziologie nun doch und stiftet so das an seinen Werken eigentuemlich Erregende von dem Grundbuch ueber "Theresienstadt, Antlitz einer Zwangsgemeinschaft" bis zu den ueber tausend Seiten der "Verwalteten Menschen", diesen "Studien zur Deportation der Juden aus Deutschland", and den jetzt vorgelegten Aufsuetzen zur Soziologie und Geschichte, "Die Freiheit des Menschen" ueberschrieben.

## Soziologie der Verfolgung

Ein anderes Schluesselwort zu Adlers Gesamtwerk und dem Wesentlichen und Fruchtbaren seines neuen Buchs findet sich ebenfalls in dem Kapitel ueber "Die Erfahrung der Ohnmacht—Zur Soziologie der Verfolgung": "Der Schutz vor dem Ausbruch von Verfolgungen ist auf denselben Wegen zu suchen wie der Schutz vor systematisierter Unterdrueckung. Auch hier muss die Gleichheit der Menschen von klar definierten Werten garantiert werden. Die Verantwortlichen in der Gesellschaft muessen sich der Rasanz bewusst werden, die jede Verfolgung annehmen kann, sobald einmal sich ihre ersten Anzeichen ankuendigen; niemand darf sich ueber ihre Drohungen tauschen". Zu "klar definierten Werten" muss vorgedrungen und sie muessen bewusst gemacht werden; einen anderen Weg der Rettung gibt es nicht! So widmet Adler grundlegende Seiten dem Begriff der "Masse", wie spaeter demjenigen der "Freiheit": stets die drohende "Vermassung" des Menschen vor Augen, ebenso wie seine "Verwaltung", ohne allerdings das neuzeitliche Ereignis wissenschaftlicher und industrieller "Technik" seinem eigenen Wesen nach zur Kenntnis zu nehmen, sei es als Chance, sei es als Gefahr. Eine andere offene Frage bleibt diejenige der auf dem Boden der Neuzeit gebotenen Methodik des Philosophierens, deren "Dialogik"—und "Freiheit fuer den Widerspruch"—Adler nur in seinem Kapitel ueber den "Mensch unter Menschen" allzu beilaeufig beruehrt und mit der irrefuehrenden Kennzeichnung als Paradoxie. "Auf den Menschen (treffen) gewoehnlich einander ausschliessende Saetze widerspruechlichen Charakters gleicherweise zu. Positive und negative Erklarungen, die sich auf seine

Einsamkeit oder die Gemeinsamkeit mit seinesgleichen beziehen, sagen paradoxerweise grundsuetzlich dasselbe. . . . Aus dieser Gegensuetzlichkeit entspringt das Widerspruechliche des Menschen, es ist sein Problem *kat exochen*, mit dem er sich immer wieder auseinandersetzen muss".

Zum "Selbstbiographischen" dieser Soziologie und der Bedeutung dieser Soziologie, weil sie nicht zuletzt "Selbstbiographie" ist, gehoert schliesslich auch Adlers Verwurzelung im Judentum, die er sich selber—and dem Leser—aber nicht so bewusst macht, wie es not taete, um (mit Adler selber gesprochen) zu hier "klar definierten Werten" durchzustossen. Wofuer er aber doch einsteht, laesst er Leo Baeck aussprechen, mit dessen Worten Adler sein Kapitel "Mensch oder Masse?" beschliesst. Diese Worte, unvergaengliche Worte des jungen Rabbiners Leo Baeck finden sich in "Das Wesen des Judentums" von 1905. "Wenn der Mensch das Kind Gottes ist, so hat jede Seele ihre ewige Bedeutung; es gibt keine Menschenmassen, sondern nur den Menschen . . . Jeder Mensch ist so als ein Einzigartiges, als Persoenlichkeit erachtet, jeder in dem ewigen Werte seiner Individualitaet anerkannt, jeder ist, wie das alte Wort sagt, fuer sich ausgepraegt."

## Arno Reinfrank

### A COLLECTION OF JEWISH LORE

Not enough for 3,000 Years

The book under review\* poses some problems, because what the volume offers are neither "Maerchen" in the true meaning of the word nor such originated in the State of Israel. Far from it! Perhaps the fact that Dr. Heda Jason's collection of extra-Biblical Jewish lore had to fit in a publisher's serial "Maerchen der Weltliteratur" has been the cause for the choice of the misleading title.

There is some difference of meaning between the old German word "Maer" and the English "Fairy Tale". Yet even bigger is the difference between the German "Maerchen" and the Hebrew "Maasse", and as Dr. Jason's collection contains also jocular stories of abandoned Oriental imagination (which are the original source of the English 'nursery liar's stories'), the title becomes still more confusing.

The book sets out to do a lot but leaves the reader with some discontent. In 1927, Emanuel bin Gorion required no less than four volumes to present his famous "Juedische Sagen und Mythen". Now, in 1976, Eugen Diederichs-Verlag attempts to achieve a somewhat similar presentation of a considerably vaster amount of material in one volume only. It doesn't suffice. Even when Ernst Bloch referred to mankind's universal treasure of sagas, myths and fairy tales as an "inventory of inventions not yet made", he was missing the point with regard to Jewish lore. There is an uniqueness that forbids generalizing treatment. For in the Torah, the probability of inventions is replaced by the assuredness of the messianic message.

Without its close links to the Torah, Jewish lore is unthinkable.

Between the publication of Bin Gorion's four volumes and Dr. Jason's none-the-less formidable compendium lies a period of most shattering Jewish experience. Bin Gorion still worked under the assumption that spiritually and factually the location of those in possession of age-old knowledge of Jewish lore was stable and secure. The 80 reference sources of his index were as yet as undisputed as the presence of Jews in Eastern Europe.

In contrast, Dr. Jason, lecturer at the University of Tel Aviv, conducted her editorial work under very different circumstances. As the base of her operation is the State of Israel, it came natural to her to include in her book material from a background virtually overlooked fifty years earlier—the Jewish population of the Islamic world. The fact that in today's Israel, representatives of underdeveloped Moslem and industrialized European societies are integrating and living their daily lives side by side, more than justifies her new approach. Further, led by her ethnopoetical studies, she could add new insights into the ancient Middle East cultures and their cross-influence upon each other. However, this must lead to a new evaluation of viewpoints held for long by senior scholars. To reprint evidence for all this in a limited 300-page volume is bound to cause over-crowding. Three thousand years of Jewish history reflected in this book? Though this reads well as a publisher's advertising gag, its realisation cannot be achieved in such restricted space.

Thus, the result is somewhat regrettable. The general reader who looks for a book useful as a present to his children necessarily feels overwhelmed. The scholar, on the other hand, doesn't get enough information from such an over-condensed survey of so wide a field. One senses that Dr. Jason has much more to offer and suffers from restrictions possibly coming from a publisher who tries to treat the Jewish heritage like that of any other nation.

Putting aside such negative observations, it soon becomes obvious that all stories presented have to be read on more than one level. Many contain the quality of the "Machal" (Gleichnis). All deal with the complexity of the human situation in this world striving for ultimate justice. One must agree with Dr. Jason that these stories, may they have been preserved in Yiddish, Ladino, Arabic or Persian, belong to a particular "world between the worlds" of visionary imagination. At times, they evoke in us a smile, even a laugh; often they produce a shudder of respect because they reveal an unshakable religious loyalty. Maybe the days have gone for ever when a father would have wished to tell them to his family. Maybe, only writers and poets can retain the wisdom of these stories for incorporation in new literary works. It remains the merit of Dr. Jason that, with the help of her translator Schoschana Gassmann, she has brought to the attention of her readers also some lesser known evidence of Jewish tradition.

After the upsurge of Leftist antisemitism in West Germany, there exists at present among young Germans a formidable curiosity about the spiritual reality of Judaism. A more adequate collection of myths and sagas of old might well have helped to satisfy this desire for knowledge. With the book under review, such genuine demand is only met to a limited extent. This may be disappointing but it can certainly do no harm—provided the appetite for more has been whetted by its publication!

\* H. G. Adler: Die Freiheit des Menschen. Aufsuetze zur Soziologie und Geschichte. J. C. B. Mohr (Paul Siebeck) Tuebingen, 1976. DM 38.

\* Maerchen aus Israel, hrsg. von Heda Jason, uebersetzt von Sch. Gassmann, 312 pp., Eugen Diederichs Verlag, Duesseldorf. Halbleinen, DM 24.—

H. W. Freyhan

## A NEW ENGLISH SCHOENBERG ASSESSMENT

More than a quarter of a century has passed since Arnold Schoenberg's death, and although much of his output cannot yet claim to attract the average listener, his status as one of the giants of twentieth-century music is hardly under dispute. His influence has equalled, if not overtaken, that of his great rival, Stravinsky, and it is most significant that, after Schoenberg's death, even Stravinsky adopted serialism, the method initiated by Schoenberg by which a composition (usually, though not necessarily, non-tonal) is based exclusively on a fixed series of notes.

The universal recognition of Schoenberg's position is, in a minor way, reflected in the fact that the *Master Musicians* series, which has been published by J. M. Dent & Sons for many decades, has now added a volume on Schoenberg to its collection. (*Malcolm MacDonald, Schoenberg*, London, 1976; £4.25). The choice of composers for this series has often mirrored the state of musical opinion in this country; for example, Bruckner and Mahler did not really come to the fore till the 1950s, and even then, the late Hans Redlich was commissioned to deal with both composers in one volume (which has since been replaced by two). Strangely enough, even Richard Strauss has only recently been added to the list.

### Quotations and Data

One of the assets of the series is its uniform outlay which greatly facilitates study. Each volume abounds in musical quotations, and it also includes a Calendar which covers every year of the composer's life and lists the simultaneous dates of his contemporaries. Other appendixes provide relevant Personalities, a bibliography and an appropriate discography (in the present volume, with annotations).

There is, of course, a considerable Schoenberg literature in English. But since Schoenberg initiated a radically new method of composing it is not surprising that many commentators have concentrated on this aspect and have felt obliged to probe into the technicalities of his system.

Malcolm MacDonald's departure from this approach could hardly be more emphatic. Confessing that he has simply loved Schoenberg's music from an early age onwards he sets out to proceed "from the basis of the simple experience of listening for enjoyment". He states frankly that his aim is "to explain and popularise Schoenberg", and he adds modestly: "I do not imagine he would have approved of it; but I am sanguine enough to hope I have done him no injustice." I am not so sure that Schoenberg, who hoped that his tunes would one day be whistled, would have altogether disapproved of the author's intention.

The biographical section occupies less than a quarter of the book. The bulk of it is reserved for discussion of the music itself, and it is gratifying for the student to find each of the works covered (only the theoretical treatises get less than their due).

It is undeniable that the wish to "popularise" Schoenberg colours the author's comments. Wherever possible, tonal trends and even faint relics of tonality are emphasised, as is Schoenberg's adherence to traditional structures in some of the more radical works. Analysis of serial procedure is not altogether eschewed, but—and this is certainly in accord-

ance with Schoenberg's wishes—the forbidding detailed investigations which make much of the relevant literature rather indigestible are replaced by simple evaluations and by the uninhibited focusing of the music's emotional message. If this may appear controversial to some orthodox Schoenbergians it does serve the author's purpose to facilitate the ordinary music lover's way to Schoenberg.

Like Richard Strauss and other great innovators, even Schoenberg, the arch-iconoclast, set out from very traditional beginnings, and there remained a conservative streak in him which determines much in his musical language and becomes very evident if one compares him with the extreme radicals of the next generation.

With Stravinsky he has in common a fundamentally religious outlook, although its manifestations are, of course, widely different. Neither his early conversion to Protestantism nor his return to the Jewish faith in 1933 signified dogmatic belief. But the quest for a relationship with the Creator, and its realisation in prayer, is the central theme of some of his most important works.

### Commitment to Judaism

Schoenberg's later commitment to the basic tenets of Judaism and to the Jewish people and its new-born State is duly recognised by the author.

Schoenberg's general background, the Vienna of Kraus, Freud, Kokoschka and Mahler, is appropriately taken into account. His parental home was "on the poorest level of the Jewish petit-bourgeoisie". The mother was "deeply attached to the old Jewish beliefs", while the father's outlook tended to be more critical and "iconoclastic". Both trends are reflected in the son and are among "the many dichotomies that shaped his intellectual development".

Little seems to be known about the motives which prompted Schoenberg's conversion to Protestantism in 1898. But it is clear that his return to Judaism in 1933 was much more than a reaction to Nazi persecution: as early as 1926 he had written a play *Der biblische Weg* which deals with the search for a new Palestine, and in 1930 he began work on the opera *Moses und Aron*, which was to become the most outstanding glorification of Judaism by any composer of his rank. This was followed by his *Kol Nidre* in 1938 and *A Survivor from Warsaw* in 1947 (culminating in the *Shema Yisroel* of the doomed Jews). His last completed works were a setting of *Dreimal Tausend Jahre*, a poem inspired by the rebirth of Israel, and *De Profundis*, a Hebrew setting of the 130th Psalm.

In summing up Schoenberg's personality the author links the persecution of his music with that of his race. Often (though not always) the composer was faced with a combination of both, and these lifelong experiences turned him into a fanatical fighter who was apt to be intolerant to the point of arrogance, e.g. in his conflict with Thomas Mann over *Doktor Faustus*. But he was himself conscious of such traits and called them "my own defects". He is certainly not alone among great composers in having his character shaped by a bitter struggle for recognition, fortified only by an overwhelming sense of mission.

(A programme on Schoenberg, in two instalments, was recently broadcast on BBC-2 Television.)

## BERLIN'S MENDELSSOHN SOCIETY

### First Decade of a New Venture

An organisation which carries a surname in its title may easily be taken as a mere association of members of the same family. Yet this does not apply to the Mendelssohn Gesellschaft e.V., though it also deals with the history of that unique family, whose members included outstanding scholars, artists and men of commerce.

In the first place, the Mendelssohn-Gesellschaft aims at scientific work. Much of what had been expected when it was founded in 1967 has been accomplished, but much more has still to be done. The Society keeps alive the memory of the achievements of members of the Mendelssohn family, and it also sponsors scholarly research, publications and musical functions pertinent to the Mendelssohns. Its acquisitions, which are usually deposited in the Mendelssohn Archives of the State Library "Preussischer Kulturbesitz" (Director Dr. Rudolf Elvers) include many so far unpublished documents. Apart from occasional original presentations to the members, the Society has produced two volumes of the "Mendelssohn-Studien" (published by Duncker & Humblot, Berlin). The subheading of these volumes ("Beitraege zur neueren deutschen Kultur- und Wirtschaftsgeschichte") indicates the wide scope of the publications. Since 1968, the Society has also arranged 50 lectures and musical performances. The first climax was reached in 1972, when the 125th anniversary of Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy's death was commemorated by a ceremony under the auspices of the Berlin Senate in the Charlottenburg Castle and by a symposium.

The Mendelssohn-Gesellschaft has individual and corporative members and sponsors in Berlin, West Germany and abroad. Its chairman since its foundation has been Dr. Cécile Lowenthal-Hensel. E.G.L.

### LOYALTY TO THE JEWISH CAUSE

#### In Memory of Leo and Arthur Lilienthal

"The Jewish community mourns the death of a man, who excelled by the sincerity of his character and by his capacity of getting on in an amiable spirit with his fellow men. He was one of our best sons." These were the concluding words of the obituary by the Berlin Jewish Community on the death of Justizrat Leo Lilienthal 50 years ago, on September 20, 1927. A lawyer by profession, and co-author of a handbook on the "Buergerliche Gesetzbuch", he was a board member of the Jewish community from 1897 onwards, and from 1902-1919, "Gemeindesyndikus". The creation of an administrative modern machinery which answered to the requirements of the large Community which during that period had grown from 150,000 to 172,000 members was, to high extent, his work. He was also a member of the Presidium of the Prussian Landesverband of Jewish Communities, founded in 1922 and of its preceding body, the "Verband der deutschen Juden" which existed from 1904-1919 and whose main object was to have the Jewish communities put on the same footing as the Christian churches.

Leo Lilienthal's loyalty to the Jewish cause was inherited by his son, Dr. Arthur Lilienthal. Due to his outstanding professional gifts, Arthur Lilienthal had become a "Landgerichtsrat" at a very early age. After his dismissal in 1933, he was appointed General Secretary of the newly established "Reichsvertretung". Together with his wife, Resi (née Hirsch), he voluntarily stayed in Germany, and both were deported to the East in 1942. E.G.L.

### POSTHUMOUS AWARD OF LEO-BAECK PRIZE

The Central Council of Jews in Germany has posthumously awarded the 1977 Leo-Baeck Prize for special achievements in the Jewish, scientific or humanitarian field to the late Professor Dr. Josef Neuberger who returned from Israel to Germany and became Minister of Justice for Northrhine-Westfalia.

Robert Weltsch

## AN OCTOGENARIAN REMEMBERS

Gershom Scholem recounts his Youth

When on a beautiful summer evening late in June this year Gershom and Fanya Scholem came to see me and my wife in Jerusalem, Gerhard (as we still call him) announced triumphantly that on that very day he had despatched the completed manuscript of the autobiography of his youth, on which he had been working at speed for several weeks, to the exclusion of everything else, to his German publisher in Frankfurt who had undertaken to publish it on Scholem's eightieth birthday, December 5.

Scholem has a curious sensitivity for the calendar and generally for the mystery of numbers. A few years ago, when we met in Jerusalem, this time at his house, he had just received the page-proofs of the English language version of his gigantic major opus, the *Life of Sabbatai Tsevi*, the *Mystical Messiah* of the seventeenth century (Routledge London) and was flabbergasted that the number of the pages of this work amounted exactly to one thousand. Was that chance or had it some deeper meaning? You never know when dealing with a man so deeply involved in Kabbala. Anyhow, this summer he was cheerfully looking forward to his forthcoming jubilee. Actually, I had conspired with Fanya a few days earlier to obtain from her confidentially a lesser known picture of her multi-photographed husband, to be published for the occasion in the current Year Book (1977) of the Leo Baeck Institute among whose Founding Fathers (in 1954) Gerhard is to be counted. I suspect that despite the secrecy Gerhard participated in the selection—anyhow, the Year Book was published with remarkable speed last month, with the photograph in it. The publisher Suhrkamp also managed to bring the new book out even several weeks in advance of the appointed date; so we have now before us Scholem's *Jugenderinnerungen*\*, prettily printed, in the same shape as the previous three of four volumes of the author's *Judaica* collections, and we have the advantage not to be dependent on our own memory, but to be able to rely on his own confessions for the sake of appreciating the most spectacular and unparalleled *Werdegang* of a Berlin-born Jewish boy from an assimilated German middle-class milieu, who at eighty may be classified as one of the highest-ranking Hebrew scholars of his time.

Yet, do not be afraid. Scholem is a superb raconteur. This book by the grand old man of Jewish mysticism does not abound in obscure mysteries and esoteric riddles; it is, in fact, a most charming and amusing book, full of a mixture of Jewish and Berlin humour, written in the author's incomparable lucid, poignant style, with a vivid sense for the vicissitudes and paradoxes of life and the *comédie humaine*. At the same time, it is an adventure story, the *Entwicklungsroman* of a man who from the first moment of his intellectual awakening has known his goal and who went on undisturbed, often at considerable risk. At the age of twenty he was cast out by his father who wanted him to choose a solid business career and could not understand his follies, until the reconciliation came

late in life when Gerhard's stupendous success in his own field impressed also the quite differently organised old man.

Scholem's book opens with a short sketch of interesting family history which goes back to the beginning of the nineteenth century in Prussia's Eastern provinces from where most Berlin Jews originated. Gerhard's youth was spent at the city centre of old Berlin, near Janowitzbrücke and Spittelmarkt; later, the family moved westward. The grandfather was a printer and two of his sons followed him in this vocation. Not only Gerhard's father Arthur, but also his uncle Theobald, were owners of a printing press. The one founded by his grandfather, who as a Wagnerian adopted the name of Siegfried Scholem, was managed by his two uncles with whom later Gerhard's two elder brothers were associated. I remember well these localities in Schöneberg Hauptstrasse, management and sympathetic and loyal labour force which was deeply shocked when the Nazis came to power. For twenty years I saw them all twice a week when I was editor of *Juedische Rundschau* which was printed there. Gerhard was attached to his uncle Theobald who was the only Zionist in the family and also the one who settled down with his wife and children in Palestine after 1933.

Young Gerhard was a keen observer, critical of his family's way of life. He mistrusted the belief in assimilation which German Jews at the peak of the liberal era took for granted as the joint object of German and Jewish society. Gerhard instinctively regarded this as a momentous self-deception. In his view Jews of his milieu were misled by what Ibsen had called the *Lebensluege*. This required a radical answer. Gerhard was in touch with Zionists but he was full of contempt for Zionist youth organisations who spent their time roaming German woods and singing German songs. A quite different effort was required. As an adolescent Gerhard was rather uninhibited and even aggressive, he did not mince words when defending his views and enjoyed being provocative in order to avoid ambiguity. Yet, he was well liked in Zionist society as an *enfant terrible*; nobody took real offence, and in hindsight he has smoothed his own uncompromising attitude although never renouncing his principles. He made the highest and most severe demands on himself and his small circle called *Jung Juda*. First of all, he devoted fifteen hours a week to the study of Hebrew. His whole *Werdegang* in this *Sturm und Drang* period is related in detail, his studies in Berlin with gentle Rabbiner Bleichrode (who later had to confess that he was unable to interpret a kabbalistic text) and subsequently with prominent German orientalist at German universities, principally at Munich, who also were not always up to his own standard. The most interesting part of his story during this period is the description of his meetings with personalities, his friendships and relationships. To the most important and influential friendship, that with Walter Benjamin and his wife Dora, Scholem has devoted a separate book. Of the many others whom I cannot all enumerate here, I want to mention only the Marx family from Königsberg, of which several members were Hebrew scholars and collectors

of books, and one of them, Esther Marx, later married the poet Agnon.

Agnon plays a prominent role in the story of Zionist life in Berlin during the war, and so does Salman Rubaschoff (Shazar), who forty years later became the third President of the State of Israel. Both these men were very near to Scholem, and through Agnon he also entered the circle of Hebrew poets and *litterateurs* who for some time during the 'twenties established a centre of Hebrew literature at Bad Homburg near Frankfurt.

Scholem has a stupendous talent for characterising persons with a few words in a most striking manner. To quote only one example: of his attractive cousin Lony, one of the few relations who were descendants of a mixed marriage, he says that although she never reacted directly to Gerhard's outpourings she was the ideal listener: "She lived somewhere outside the world, but live she did" (p. 143).

Among the men who at that time played an important part in Scholem's life was, of course, Martin Buber whom he frequently visited at Heppenheim and from whom he received many suggestions. On the other hand, there were also disappointing encounters with eccentrics such as Robert Eisler or Gustav Meyrink. Decisive for young Scholem was his perusal of all thirteen volumes of Graetz's "History of the Jews". He became an admirer of Graetz but he did not accept his mockery and condemnation of Kabbala and of everything linked with Jewish mysticism. In spite of Graetz who called the Zohar a "book of lies", Scholem embarked on a thorough study of this controversial book. At the end of this road, as we know, was Scholem's professorship of Kabbala at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and his supreme mastery of the subject.

But this lies already beyond the orbit of the present book in which the reader will find many fascinating surprises and revelations. It is a unique document of the adventures of the Jewish mind in the twentieth century, albeit rather unconventional and in no way typical. No wonder that Gershom Scholem has been involved in not a few disputes. Yet, in the long run he has emerged victorious, and also most of his opponents of days past are now joining his old friends and admirers in saluting him on his eightieth birthday, as we do, and wishing him—apart from good health for himself and Fanya, of course—more years of creative vigour.

### RICHARD CROSSMAN CHAIR AT HAIFA UNIVERSITY

A Richard Crossman Memorial Chair of Social Welfare Policy and Planning is to be set up at Haifa University. It will have its own mobile social work laboratory and attempt to bridge the gap between Sephardi and Ashkenazi communities as well as between Jews and Arabs in Israel. Money for the Chair is being raised in Birmingham by the B'nai B'rith Lodge and other organisations. (Crossman was M.P. for Coventry.) The Birmingham Lodge is twinned with the Lodge in Haifa, and the Haifa University has modelled its own library on the highly efficient one of Birmingham University.

### MORE JUDGEMENTS AGAINST EXTREMISTS

At Tübingen, 40-year-old Karlheinz Hoffmann received a suspended prison sentence of three years and a fine of DM 2,000, because as leader of the extreme Right "Wehrsportgruppe Hoffmann" he had led attacks on a number of university students which degenerated into messy fights. Two of his guards were sentenced to doing 80 and 100 hours of work for the Red Cross.

\* Gershom Scholem: *Von Berlin nach Jerusalem. Jugenderinnerungen*. Suhrkamp Verlag, Frankfurt, 1977. 220 pp. (Bibliothek Suhrkamp). DM 14.80.

# BIRTHDAY TRIBUTES TO FRANK E. FALK

## DEVOTION AND RELIABILITY

On December 2, Dr. Frank E. Falk, Vice-Chairman of the AJR, will celebrate his 70th birthday. Among the numerous Jewish causes with which he is associated, the AJR holds a special position. He has been a member of its Executive since 1953 and in 1962 was elected Hon. Treasurer. He held this office for 14 years until, in 1976, he became the Vice-Chairman of the organisation. At the same time, he has been one of the three Trustees of the AJR Charitable Trust since its inception in 1960. When, a few months ago, a special Sub-Committee of the Executive was founded to consider constructive social schemes to be carried out with the aid of the AJR Charitable Trust, Dr. Falk became its chairman. Lastly, as readers will have seen from the front page article of this issue, he was recently elected Joint Chairman of the world-wide Council of Jews from Germany.

This list of offices in itself indicates the amount of work he does for the AJR. Yet of still greater importance is the spirit of devotion and reliability by which the fulfilment of his duties excels. An exact worker with a strong sense of detail, administrative work is for him not an end in itself. It is based on a deeply rooted Jewish consciousness. The son of the chairman of the Duesseldorf Jewish community, who held office until 1941 and courageously carried out his duty until the burden became unbearable for him, Fritz (as he then was) Falk was active in a local group of the "Verband juedischer Jugendvereine", and this was the start of his career as a Jewish communal worker.

He is in almost daily contact with the AJR office, attending to general and individual questions of the AJR and the AJR Charitable Trust. Above all, he acts in a voluntary capacity as the expert spokesman of the Nazi victims in questions of taxation. Many legislative improvements are, to a large extent, due to his efforts. One outstanding example is the 50 per cent tax exemption of certain payments to Nazi victims under the Finance Act 1974. This journal also constantly benefits from his ability to explain legally complicated regulations in a manner understandable to the lay reader.

As a personality shaped by his Jewishness, he has always also been greatly concerned with the wider issues of the community in the spiritual field such as the annual Jewish Book Week and the rallies in memory of the Holocaust, and he represents the AJR on the committees concerned with these issues. His untiring co-operation with his colleagues in the AJR has also resulted in cordial personal relations with them. It is our ardent wish that he will continue his work in health and happiness during the new decade of his life.

WERNER ROSENSTOCK

## SERVICE TO ZIONISM

Friend Falk, or to give him his full name and style: Dr. Frank Edgar Falk, F.C.A., F.T.I.L., is one of the rare people who, after having achieved prominence and high office in Jewish communal organisations still continues to do practical work at grass roots level. He gives unstintingly of his vast knowledge and experience and is a glutton for work. The AJR, B'nai B'rith and some others can amply testify to this. We concentrate on one other aspect of his voluntary work: Zionism. Long before he reached this country in 1939, he was already an active Zionist in his native Germany. He was responsible for the Keren Hayesod in the whole area of North West Germany and also in charge of the Palestine Office of the Jewish Agency in the Port of Hamburg. Arriving here, his first contribution to British Zionism was to assist in the founding of the Theodor Herzl Society.

World War II saw him in H.M. Forces. On his return from active service (besides studying from German Lawyer to British Accountant) Falk did much to intensify the work of the Theodor Herzl Society; he was not only a permanent (always re-elected) member of their Executive, but on frequent occasions their Chairman and, as far as it can be recalled, always their Treasurer.

Yet soon he also became known in the leading circles of the Zionist Federation, serving on the Organisation Committee of the ZF and duly elected by Conference to the National Executive. As a much respected Honorary Officer of the Zionist Federation he serves with distinction on some of those "back room" committees which never catch the eye of the public but are influential and essential to the smooth working of the Federation like the Finance Committee and the Constitution Committee. Here we must stop; otherwise the list grows inordinately long, United Zionists, Zion House and many other activities of Falk must be left out.

All of us wish him health and happiness on this very special birthday. May we all, for a very long time to come, continue to be able phoning him to suggest a special task and to receive the inevitable reply: "I certainly will do it, but you must give me time. I always work until 2 a.m. and cannot work any longer".

All his friends thank Friend Falk for this.  
GEORGE H. TRENTER

## STALWART B'NAI B'RITH GUIDE

Dear Frank,

This issue of AJR Information would not be complete without a tribute to you as one of the leading members of B'nai B'rith, the worldwide fraternal benevolent order, and in particular, the Leo Baeck (London) Lodge, one of its most important constituent lodges, the majority of whose members share the origin, tradition and ideals of the AJR. Merely enumerating your merits and your achieve-

ments would not reflect the warmth of your own feelings as a brother and the affection in which you are held by your own fellow brothers—hence the form of a letter which the editor has permitted me to commit to print.

The motto of B'nai B'rith is *Benevolence, Brotherly Love and Harmony*, and if any of these principles should particularly apply to your work on behalf of the Lodge, it would be Benevolence—defined "disposition to do good", and expressing kindness, charity and, literally, goodwill towards your fellow men, and, in particular, your brothers and sisters of the Order. You joined the Lodge at a mature age, in 1960, and if you commit yourself to a cause, you do it wholeheartedly. This was recognised by your brothers, and within a relatively short time you were elected to the highest office which the Leo Baeck Lodge could offer—its Presidency, which you held from 1965 to 1967. Since then you have continued your work for the Lodge not as a grey eminence nor as a back-seat driver, but as an elder statesman, always available for active work and wise counsel, but never pushing yourself into the limelight of mere publicity.

Your particular efforts were devoted to practical work in the Lodge's Finance and Scholarship Committees, its Old Age Fund, its home for the elderly, and the Day Centre for the over-sixties. Your legal training and experience in accountancy were of particular help in revising the lodge's constitution and in the formation of a housing association; your commitment to Israel found expression in engaging the Lodge's full support for the *Ir Ganim* Library and Youth Centre, a project of our sister lodge, the David Yellin Lodge of Jerusalem.

Of greatest importance was your work for the Lodge's Cultural Activities Committee—programme building for our weekly meetings, which only you, so intensely involved in Jewish life and entertaining so many *Beziehungen*, could achieve. But foremost, it was your tolerant outlook which on many occasions helped us to smooth over controversial issues which inevitably arise in an organisation of several hundred members of all factions of the Jewish community.

Needless to say, your merits soon brought you "promotion" to office in *B'nai B'rith District 15*, the roof organisation comprising some sixty lodges in Great Britain and Ireland, and you became a member of the District Executive (at that time called Grand Lodge) in 1966. You are now holding the office of its National Treasurer. Your acumen in financial matters and wisdom in handling public affairs now benefits B'nai B'rith in its widest aspects and assists the further expansion of this dynamic organisation.

A great American has recently been quoted as saying: "To be seventy years young is sometimes far more cheerful and hopeful than to be forty years old." May your youthful outlook, combined with the wisdom of maturity, continue to benefit B'nai B'rith and, through it, the community at large.

With fraternal greetings,  
Yours affectionately,  
ARNOLD HORWELL

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## PERSONALIA

### "OUR DOCTOR"

#### 75th Birthday of Dr. Paul Goldscheider

On December 12, Dr. Paul Goldscheider will celebrate his 75th birthday. This provides a welcome opportunity to express the feelings of affection and gratitude shared by his numerous patients and especially by the residents of the Homes whose trusted physician he has been for many years. He was born in Vienna and, orphaned in childhood, had to work for his living during his student years. When he obtained his medical qualifications he was not only a practising doctor of medicine but also the general manager of an industrial concern. In view of the imminent Nazi invasion of Austria, he transferred the assets of the firm to England in 1937 and, at the same time, studied for his English medical degree. After having obtained his qualifications he gave up the managership of the firm and worked as a doctor in a London hospital. During the war, he served with the R.A.M.C. in West Africa, France, Belgium and, finally, Germany. After his demobilisation he started his practice in the same house at Goldhurst Terrace, where he and his wife and partner, Dr. Gertrude Goldscheider, still live and work.

His attachment to 14 Netherhall Gardens, the abode of Otto Schiff House, started already when the house was still run as Winter's Hotel and the late Rabbi Dr. David Winter, his family and many of its guests became his patients. In 1955, the house was opened as the first Home for the Aged, jointly administered by the CBF and the AJR. Since then, throughout the past 22 years, he has regularly held his weekly consulting hours in the Home. He increased his burden, when, in 1962, Osmond House was established to accommodate those elderly people who, in view of their frailty, needed additional care and attention. Dr. Goldscheider rendered his services also to Osmond House for nine years; he then, regretfully, had to give up this part of his work, because he found that the care for both homes became too much.

Yet this bare enumeration of facts does not do full justice to Dr. Goldscheider's work. It is in the nature of a Home for the Elderly that the proportion of emergency visits is particularly high. Furthermore, his co-operation is also invaluable because, having been a refugee himself, he knows the background, language and mentality of the residents. He also always makes it a point to visit both the residents and his other patients when they are in hospital.

His interests and accomplishments outside the medical profession are very widespread indeed; they cover the fields of literature, painting and music. He acquired literary fame by his correspondence with Else Lasker-Schueler, who was a great friend of his. It was one of the habits of this poetess, who constantly lived in a state of tension between reality and fantasy, to address her friends in her letters with sobriquets. One of the sobriquets she used in letters to Dr. Goldscheider was "Mein lieber gestreifter Tiger", and this became the title of one collection of her correspondence. Further letters to him are published in another collection, "Die Wolkenbruecke". All of them reflect her gratitude to him for his human understanding and deep perception. Dr. Goldscheider has put the originals of the letters at the disposal of the Else Lasker-Schueler Archives, admin-

istered in Jerusalem by Manfred Sturmann. His paintings include a picture of her, which he donated to the Van der Heide Museum in Wuppertal, the home town of the poetess. While living in London, Oskar Kokoschka was a patient of his, and the friendship between the two men has persisted throughout the years. Endowed with a deep musical understanding—he has a beautiful bass voice—he used to give musical parties in his home.

Thus within his profession and in many other spheres Dr. Goldscheider may look back on many achievements. As a personality in the true sense of the word we salute him on this birthday and extend to him our very best wishes for the future. W.R.

#### JOSEPH LEFTWICH 85

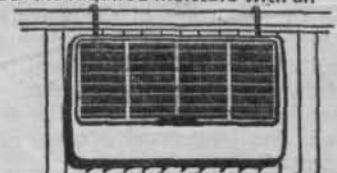
Jews from Central Europe who came to this country as refugees have special reason to extend their best wishes to Joseph Leftwich on the occasion of his 85th birthday. He was one of those Jews in this country who understood their mentality, and his home was "an open house" to many of them. He was a great friend of Stefan Zweig, and translated works of his from German into English. His publications include the first biography of Israel Zangwill and "The Way We Think", a two-volume anthology of the finest essays of over 80 writers, translated into English. For many years, he was editor of the London bureau of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, and now, notwithstanding his age, he still carries out his daily work at the Federation of Jewish Relief Organisations, addresses meetings and writes articles. In gratitude for his often experienced helpfulness we wish him many happy returns of the day.

#### BISHOP MONTEFIORE

The controversial new Bishop of Birmingham, Dr Hugh Montefiore, is a collateral of Sir Moses Montefiore and was converted to Christianity at 17 when a student at Rugby. His brother, Mr. Denzil Sebag-Montefiore is president of the Spanish and Portuguese Jews' Congregation, and a cousin, Mr. Harold Sebag-Montefiore, is a past president of the Anglo-Jewish Association. He has been known to describe himself as a "Jewish Christian" and to have said: "I was born a Jew and will always be one".

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#### MR. A. S. DRESEL AJR LIFE PRESIDENT

The AJR Executive has decided to appoint Mr. Alfred S. Dresel, chairman of the AJR from 1963 to 1974, Life President in grateful recognition of the extensive services rendered by him during the tenure of the chairmanship and in many other ways. Mr Dresel will continue his services as member of the AJR Executive and as chairman of the Management Committee for the Homes. This is the first time that an honour of this kind has been bestowed on a leading hon. officer of the AJR, and all those who know Mr. Dresel's most effective work at the helm of the AJR, and his special devotion to the work for the Homes, will be pleased to learn about this well deserved recognition of the relentless, understanding and inspiring guidance he has given to his fellow workers for many years.

#### PAULA LINDBERG 80

On December 21, the singer Paula Lindberg will celebrate her 80th birthday in Amsterdam. She started her career before the First World War and rendered performances under Bruno Walter, Furtwaengler and other world famous conductors. Readers from Berlin, where she lived until she fled to Holland, remember with particular gratitude the first years after 1933, when she voluntarily put herself at the disposal of Jewish functions. Together with her late husband, the well-known surgeon Professor Dr. Albert Salomon, she survived the hardship of the concentration camps in Nazi occupied Holland. She is still active as a tutor and for the past 29 years has paid regular annual visits to Salzburg to teach in the Mozarteum. A few months ago, she paid a visit to London and those of her former friends and acquaintances who met her on that occasion, were pleased to notice that age has left no mark on her. We wish her many more years of unimpaired health and strength to continue her work as a great artist.

#### PRIZE FOR ERICH FRIED

Author Erich Fried who came to this country as a refugee from Vienna in 1938, received the "Seven Publishers' Prize" awarded for the first time at this year's Frankfurt book-fair, for a volume of poems "100 poems without a country" which will be published by seven Left-wing publishers from various countries, including Britain, France, Italy, and Germany.

#### COUNCIL OF CHRISTIANS AND JEWS

At the annual meeting of the Council of Christians and Jews, the joint presidents, the Archbishops of Canterbury and Westminster and the Chief Rabbi asked for support for the Council's appeal for £250,000 to appoint sorely needed staff, especially Christian and Jewish education officers who would be able to go into the schools. Chief Rabbi Jakobovits said they all had to strive to ensure that every citizen felt at home in Britain. Jews sincerely echoed the emphasis the Archbishop of Canterbury laid on the central role of the family in society. Mr. Edmund de Rothschild retired after 20 years as joint treasurer and was elected a vice-president. His successor is Sir Sigmund Sternberg, who is also appeal chairman. Mr. Brynmor John, MP, Minister of State at the Home Office, said no country was free of racial and religious problems, and Britain's record was favourable compared with many other countries. The abolition of the National Front would not mean that racialism had been overcome. Newly elected members of the Council include Lady Karminski, Rabbi Harry Jacobs, Mr. Greville Janner, MP, and Mr Fred Worms.

Margot Pottlitzer

## MEMORIES OF A TRAGIC FRIENDSHIP

### A Jewish childhood in Germany

It is a strange phenomenon that to many Jews who left Germany in the early days of the Nazi régime, the image they have retained of their country of origin, has frozen at the moment of departure. Of course they are aware of what happened later, but they seem strangely unable to visualise that it happened to and was done by people they had known intimately. This is particularly true of people from Southern or Western Germany where for generations their forebears had actually shared the life of their Gentile neighbours and identified with them to a remarkable degree. Baden and Württemberg in particular remained impervious to Nazi teachings for a very long time, and ties formed at school or in professional life took a long time to break and were not infrequently reformed after the war.

One of these early emigrants is the painter Fred Uhlman who left his native Stuttgart where he was a successful young lawyer, in 1933, but who has never ceased to love his birthplace, the landscape of his youth and the memories it holds for him. He is convinced that the roots of his art go back to that countryside. He was born in 1901. His family had lived in Stuttgart for many years, in friendly contact with Jews and non-Jews alike. There was not a great deal of overt anti-semitism when he was young. When he had to give up his profession, he left for Paris and started on a new career as a gifted painter. Soon afterwards, he came to England, married an English girl, the sister of a peer, and in 1938 settled with her in Downshire Hill, Hampstead, where he still lives, though nowadays he also has a retreat in Wales.

#### From Stuttgart to Hampstead

The Uhlman's home became a haven for persecuted artists. Three years ago, the Hampstead Artists Council held an exhibition "Hampstead in the Thirties — a committed decade" at the Camden Arts Centre which revealed the great part refugee artists played in those days. Mrs. Diana Uhlman contributed an article to the catalogue which described her own, her husband's and her brother's efforts to rescue as many artists as possible from persecution and worse. Together with a number of leading English artists, they set up the "Artists Refugee Committee" and founded the "Kulturbund"—which was later to play a prominent part—not only in cultural matters, alas! Between twenty and thirty artists from Germany, Austria and Czechoslovakia were brought over by the committee—they included Kokoschka, Schwitters and John Heartfield who lived with the Uhlmans for five years.

Some years ago, Fred Uhlman wrote an autobiography "The making of an Englishman" which showed him to be almost as good a writer as a painter. Now he has written another book "Reunion"\* to which Arthur Koestler has written an introduction, saying that he considers it a minor masterpiece, written in a nostalgic minor key. Nostalgic it certainly is, and very moving, too. It is written in the first person and it obviously contains autobiographical elements. However Hans Schwarz, the narrator, was born in 1916, and Uhlman in 1901. This is the point where memory begins to play its tricks. What

happens to Schwarz, could have happened to Uhlman in 1917, when he was 16, but not, surely not, in 1932. The little story, a "Novelle" in the continental meaning of the word, is beautifully written, particularly when the author describes in a very few words the beauty of the Swabian countryside and the view of Stuttgart from the surrounding hills. To us, however, who indeed went to school in those years before 1933, it is not wholly credible. Boys of 16 may have been less sophisticated than their present-day counterparts, but, alas, long before 1933, politics were not something that occurred outside the school walls. When Uhlman went to school, a friendship in which his Jewish background was not discussed for months, may have been just possible. In the early Thirties it was not. Even then, the 16-year-old read newspapers, and even if the Nazis were still in a minority in Stuttgart, there must have been boys who wore the swastika under their lapels and went to party meetings. Not all of them, but some. . . .

Hans Schwarz describes just one year, the last in Germany, of his school life. Like Uhlman he goes to the venerable Eberhard-Ludwigs Gymnasium, the oldest in Württemberg. He is the son of a Jewish doctor, and the descendant of generations of rabbis, though his family is "emancipated". The mother goes to synagogue on the High Holy-days and sings "Stille Nacht" at Christmas. His father neither smokes nor travels on Jewish Holy-days, because he does not want to hurt other peoples' feelings. He has fought in the First World War and wears his Iron Cross with pride. A fervent patriot and anti-Zionist, he eventually prefers suicide to emigration. In 1932, however, aged 16, Hans forms a passionate idealist friendship with handsome Konradin von Hohenfels, scion of one of the oldest and most illustrious families of the Württemberg nobility. The boys share an interest in Hölderlin and coin-collecting and together they roam through the beautiful countryside. Hans reminisces: "He came into my life in February, 1932 and never left it again. . . . He was to be the source of my greatest happiness and of my greatest despair".

The happiness does not last long. Konradin fights a losing battle to shield his friendship from his family's hostility. His mother loathes Jews and has a picture of the Führer on her dressing-table. The crunch comes when one evening they meet at the opera and Konradin, surrounded by his family, cuts his friend. When Hans reproaches him the day after, he bursts out: "I've had to fight for every hour I've spent with you. . . . Don't look at me with those stricken dogs' eyes. Do you want to blame me for the ways of the world? Isn't it time we both grew up, gave up dreaming and faced reality? You expect too much from simple mortals, my dear Hans". And, looking back, Hans comments: "It was the beginning of the end. The long cruel process of uprooting had begun".

A new teacher introduces National Socialism into the teaching of history, and the class, hitherto philistine and a-political, begins to persecute Hans and make his life unbearable. His father decides to send him to America where he finishes his education and becomes a successful lawyer. There is a last letter from Konradin, saying that Hans is right to leave, but that there is no reason why he should not come back later. He himself now

believes in the Führer and he is sure that "the Führer is perfectly able and willing to choose between the good and the undesirable Jewish elements". The end has indeed come.

Through all his life, Hans is haunted by the memory of this friendship. After the war he finds out what has happened to Konradin after they parted. It is a surprising cathartic ending to a modern fairy-tale which it would be churlish to reveal. "Reunion" is a fairy-tale with all its elements of cruelty and heart-break, and as with all fairy-tales it is necessary to suspend one's disbelief and to be convinced that it happened "once upon a time". . . .

### RACIAL DEBATE IN SCHOOLS AND UNIVERSITIES

The School of Oriental and African Studies has been referred to the Commission for Racial Equality for "infringement of current race relations legislation". The school's Students Union had decided to "deny facilities and union funds to societies which propagate Israeli propaganda". The union's publication officer, Peter Johnson, said this was ridiculous, there was no discrimination against Jewish students or societies, but only against explicitly Zionist societies. Other student unions with anti-Israeli policies are Salford, Lancaster and Essex universities, Bangor and Swansea university colleges and North London, Lancaster and Teeside Polytechnics. At Liverpool University, a pro-Israel motion was carried by 182 votes to 46.

At the North-East London Polytechnic fewer than 130 of 4,000 students were present at a meeting which voted 66 to 55 to ban Zionist activities. Student leaders described the preceding debate as sickening and hate-filled. The resolution, proposed by members of the Trotskyist Socialist Workers' Party, condemned Zionism as racism and opposed plans by the National Union of Students to ban unions which put restrictions on Jewish societies. Despite the restriction on their rights, Jewish students at the Polytechnic have to pay a £27 membership fee a year. Mr. Timothy Goodwin, student president at the Polytechnic, said he would try to reverse the policy at a public meeting.

The Barking Community Relations Council has complained to the Attorney General about a children's newspaper, "Bulldog", published by the National Front and distributed among schoolchildren. The paper encourages its readers to "spread the racialist word" and distribute Front literature in schools. Its editor is Joe Pearce, a 16-year-old student at the South Bank Polytechnic. Mr. Eric Moonman, MP, has also asked the Attorney General to prosecute the paper under the Race Relations Act. He said he was very angry that the Department of Education had done nothing to get the paper banned from schools.

Over 100 pupils, aged from 13 to 18, took part in the first annual conference of Jewish pupils at public schools. A Harrow pupil said there had been little change in the amount of antisemitism at the school which was not based on the political situation outside the school, but on ignorance. A pupil at Haberdasher's Aske's said there had been an enormous influx of Jewish pupils during the past few years. One form had only two non-Jewish boys. This had led to more polarisation of attitudes, but the headmaster was very pro-Jewish. At Highgate, "Jewish Circle", the time set aside for Jewish activities was compulsory. At St. Paul's School, however, where there were some 100 Jewish boys, only some nine or ten go to Jewish prayers. The High Master had not agreed to the formation of a Jewish Society.

#### A TRANSLATOR OF BRECHT

The play "The Days of the Commune" by Bertolt Brecht which is in the repertoire of the Royal Shakespeare Theatre at the Aldwych in London, has been translated by our contributor Arno Reinfrank together with Clive Barker.

\* Fred Uhlman, *Reunion*. Collins & Harvill Press, London 1977. 112 pp. £2.50.

Egon Larsen

## HATRED: A REFUGEE'S PLEASURE

Want to read a thoroughly nasty book? Then I recommend Erwin Blumenfeld's *Durch tausendjährige Zeit*, published by a smallish Swiss firm, Verlag Huber in Frauenfeld, at 28 Swiss francs. There is a good reason why no big German publisher wanted to touch it—the book is rather strong meat, unfit for general human consumption. The title is a quote from Ringelnatz, whom the author knew; but Blumenfeld might have used, more appropriately, Byron's famous line: "Hatred is by far the longest pleasure".

In 427 pages, Blumenfeld describes his twentieth-century Odyssey as a German Jew and refugee in Holland, France, and America, which he all hated although his life was a rags-to-riches story *par excellence*. It began with what he calls his "concentration camp mother's womb" after having been conceived in a Berlin carriage which was taking his parents home from a *Tristan* performance in 1896. From then on, he hated his mother (including her constant cough—she died of tuberculosis), and later all women he met, as well as his fellow-Jews, the Germans, the homosexuals, the businessmen; in short, everybody, last not least himself. To explain why, he makes up stories, such as a half-dozen pages long rendering of obscenities to which, he says, the people in the rag-trade treated him as an apprentice (I never heard anything like it during my own time at the *Hausvogelplatz*).

Of course he hated the First World War in which he took part as an army driver, with a short spell as cashier and bookkeeper of a soldiers' brothel in France. He tried to desert

in the summer of 1918 to join his fiancée in Holland, but was caught and sent back to the front. After the armistice he made his own way back to Berlin, and somehow got into the "Dada" circle: Herzfelde and Heartfield, Hülsenbeck, Mehring, George Grosz, Piscator, Mynona, Benn, Gumpert. After an orgy in Grosz' studio he left Germany for ever, went secretly over the Dutch frontier and joined his fiancée. They married and started a shop for leather goods in Amsterdam. After seventeen years' business efforts they went bankrupt. The Blumenfeld's escaped to Paris—not from the Nazis, who were now in power in Germany, but from their creditors—and he became a photographer.

This was what he had always wanted to be, but experts and editors who had seen his work had all discouraged him because of lack of talent. Now, as a bankrupt refugee in an unfriendly Paris, he proved them wrong. He must have been quite a ladies' man, for he always found females who helped him through French society and business circles to establish his reputation; but he also must have been an excellent and original photographer for fashions, portraits, publicity and the like, and soon he worked for *Vogue*, where Cecil Beaton introduced him. Yet he despised his clients, as he despised all Paris. However, it all lasted only until the Second World War began.

### Internment in France

The French put him in an internment camp after a local newspaper had denounced him as the "German parachutist Blumenfeld". It was a gruelling time, but eventually he managed to get out and obtain a U.S. visa. With his family, he escaped via Spain and North Africa, and landed in New York. And again, starting from less than scratch, he succeeded in getting to the top—in a New York he describes as a city of drug addicts, alcoholics, profiteers, and senile millionaires ruling industry, economy, politics. It is a grotesque and morose caricature of a society which helped him to become one of the best known and most highly paid photographers in America, contributing to *Life*, *Look*, *Harper's Bazaar*, *Colliers*, *Esquire* and other world-famous journals. But all he tells us about this period is nastiness, unpleasant experiences,

and malicious gossip; all the people he met seemed to have been atrocious characters.

The last page of Blumenfeld's book describes, so morbidly and luridly that one has much difficulty reading it, his own death. In fact, he died shortly after finishing his book—the story of a loveless, bitter refugee who appears to have had only one lifelong desire: to opt out of life, of a world that had offered him only one real pleasure—hate.

### TEACHING THE HISTORY OF THE THIRD REICH

Berlin Radio recently broadcast a discussion on the teaching of the history of the Third Reich in present-day German schools. Dieter Bossmann, a teachers' training expert, said that he had investigated a number of students' essays between October 1976 and April 1977 and come to the conclusion that there was an overwhelming lack of knowledge about National Socialism and that students did not want to know about it, either. The only thing that transpired was a personal interest in Hitler and a degree of admiration for his so-called achievements. Another speaker said the school had to overcome prejudices implanted in young people at home and in youth organisations. Many people were even afraid of talking freely about their own attitude to the events in the Third Reich. Heinz Galinski, president of the Berlin Jewish community, said that many teachers had themselves an anti-Israel attitude and tried to influence their pupils accordingly. He had also been told by a schoolchild that the history of National Socialism was only part of the curriculum of the last year at school.

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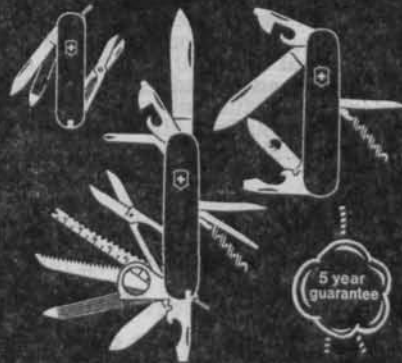
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# IN MEMORIAM

## PETER BLACHSTEIN

Peter Blachstein—born in Dresden in 1911—for some years played an active part in the D.J.J.G. (Deutsch - Juedische - Jugendgemeinschaft) and in the "Werkleute" (Kameraden). In 1929 he joined the S.A.P. (Sozialistische Arbeiterpartei) and one of their youth groups. Thus began a political commitment to which he was to dedicate his whole life.

1933-1947 were years of great hardship and deprivation; they undermined his health permanently and finally brought about his premature death on October 4. After his experience of concentration camps in Germany and in Spain, he fled from country to country, living in exile in five of them.

He returned to Hamburg in 1947, a city he loved to the end of his life, joined the S.P.D. and worked as a journalist. By direct vote he was elected for Hamburg-Eimsbüttel to the first Federal German Parliament and remained its Member for 19 years. In the parliamentary committees on which he served one of his main concerns was intellectual and artistic freedom. He was deeply interested in the arts, especially the theatre.

For many years he was also a member of Verwaltungsrat des Norddeutschen and des Nordwestdeutschen Rundfunks, and more recently chairman of the board of Studio Hamburg Atelierbetrieb. "If I had not become a politician, I should have liked to be an actor or producer," he told me not long ago.

But his first love was politics. Kurt Schumacher was his mentor. Willy Brandt, with whom he had worked in exile in Scandinavia, was a personal friend; he travelled with him to Oslo when Brandt was awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace in 1971.

While an MP he was also one of the S.P.D.'s delegates to the Council of the West European Union in Strassburg, a member of the "Euro-parat" and of the Interparliamentarian Union. Unremittingly he worked for a united Europe and world peace.

In 1968 he became the first Ambassador of the Federal German Republic in Belgrade. He went there with high hopes: "to work towards reconciliation of the Yugoslav peoples with Germany and for peace in Europe", he wrote. Unfortunately, he had to relinquish his post after one year, on health grounds.

In the remaining eight years of his life and in spite of his progressing illness he undertook for his Government a series of journeys abroad which included several European countries, North and South America and Japan.

When he could no longer travel, he continued organising active support for political refugees who had been his lifelong concern in and outside Germany. "The Worldwide Partnership", whose president he was, is the last of several such organisations he established.

His fellow workers in many countries will remember him as a dedicated politician whose work had a moral foundation. (He abhorred pragmatism.) They, as well as his former comrades in the Jewish Youth Movement, also mourn a loyal friend and charming host, who loved discussing political and cultural issues of our time until the early hours of the morning.

Alice APT

## HANS HABE

Hungarian-born writer and journalist Hans Habe who has died, aged 66, led an adventurous life. He fled from Vienna where he had dug up Hitler's family history and alleged that his real name was Schickelgruber, after the Anschluss. In France he joined the Army under his real name, Janos Bekessy, was taken prisoner and escaped to live in hiding. Eventually he went to the United States, joined the Army and returned to Germany in 1945 when he helped to reorganise the German press. Later in life he became a convinced Zionist and published a book, "In King David's Footsteps", in which he said that the State of Israel represented the sixth, unwritten Book of Moses.

## LUDWIG ROSENBERG

The former chairman of the West German Trade Union Federation, Mr. Ludwig Rosenberg, has died in Düsseldorf, aged 74. He was born in Berlin and, in 1928, he became a full-time official of the Clerical Workers Union. In 1933 he came to Britain as a political refugee and worked as a free-lance journalist and lecturer for the Workers Educational Association. During this time, he also undertook research for the A.J.R. on post-war employment for refugees. Immediately after the war, he returned to Germany and helped to reorganise the trade unions in a novel way which has helped to keep industrial disputes in the Federal Republic at a very low level. He paid several visits to Israel and established good relations between the German unions and the Histadrut. Only a few days before his death he was awarded the Freiherr-vom-Stein Prize of Hamburg which is annually given to personalities "who follow the example of Freiherr vom Stein's social and political reforms".

## MRS. MILLIE MILLER, MP

Mrs. Millie Miller who died, aged 54, after a long illness, was Mayor of Camden in 1967-68 and known for her interest in Jewish and other minority matters. She was elected to Parliament in 1974 with a majority of 778 as Member for Redbridge, Ilford North. She had been born in Hackney and met her husband, Montague Miller, at a Jewish Lads' Brigade camp. Liberal Judaism played an important part in her and her husband's life, and from 1968-72 she was chairman of the North London Progressive Synagogue. She took a strong interest in race relations, housing, health and education and was a member of the Jewish Welfare Board, Pioneer Women, Labour Friends of Israel, and organisations working for Soviet Jewry. She was frequently in touch with the A.J.R. and took a great interest both in our general activities and in the well-being of individuals. Her untimely death is therefore also felt as a personal loss by her friends in the A.J.R.

## DR. RUDOLF GRUNEBERG

Wuppertal-born Dr. Rudolf Gruneberg, who has died in Edinburgh, was an eminent surgeon and scholar. Unable to obtain a medical degree after his studies in Germany, he graduated in Basle and Edinburgh where he became a fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons. During the war he served in the Forces and reached the rank of acting-Major in the R.A.M.C. in the Far and Middle East. He founded the highly reputed accident unit at the Royal Victoria Hospital, Kirkcaldy, and was a president of the Edinburgh Jewish Literary Society, Jewish Students' Society, the Gramophone Society, and a member of the regional chaplaincy board. Shortly before his death he was elected vice-president of the local B'nai B'rith. He was also a member of the A.J.R. since its inception. Dr. Gruneberg was much sought after as a lecturer on a wide variety of subjects, including history and music and was awarded the Doris Idlum Prize of the British Medical Association for an essay on "Advances in understanding and treatment of psychological disturbances associated with accidents and injuries". His brother is a member of Kibbutz Mishmar Haemek in Israel and a professor of Egyptology at Tel Aviv University.

Only a few months ago Dr. Gruneberg contributed a thought-provoking essay, "Reflections on Re-reading Plato", to *AJR Information*.

## MR. HARRY J. COUTTS

Mr. Harry J. Coutts, who died in Glasgow at the age of 81, was a generous supporter of many Jewish causes. His efforts included the raising of funds and providing of employment for refugees who came to Glasgow as victims of Nazi persecution. In the early days he and his family also provided a home for a refugee child.

## SIR MICHAEL BALCON

One of the pioneers of the British film industry, Sir Michael Balcon, has died at the age of 81. He was educated at Jewish schools in Birmingham, and was helped by Oscar Deutsch who set up the Odeon cinema chain and the Ostrer brothers to make his first successful films. In 1938 he joined Ealing studios and made several films with Conrad Veidt. After the war, he made the highly successful Ealing comedies, including "Passport to Pimlico", "The Man in the White Suit" and many others. He was married to the former Miss Aileen Leatherman from Johannesburg who did a great deal of work for the Haifa Technion and for the Jewish Child's Day movement. He himself was a member of the Liberal Jewish Synagogue for 50 years. His daughter is the actress Jill Balcon, the widow of the late Poet Laureate, Cecil Day-Lewis.

## ZERO MOSTEL

Zero Mostel, the American comedian who has died, aged 62, created the famous role of Teyve the milkman in "Fiddler on the Roof" in the 1964 original Broadway production, which became the longest-running show in Broadway history. Mostel, the Brooklyn-born son of a rabbi, said he was called Zero because of his lacking academic ability. His acting on stage and screen won him many awards, including three "Tonys" (the "Oscar" of the US stage). He was taken ill when about to open in a new version of the "Merchant of Venice" by Arnold Wesker in which he was to play Shylock. In the early 1950s he was blacklisted and put out of work as a Left-wing sympathiser during the McCarthy era. Before he returned to acting in 1958, he reverted to his original career as a painter and finished over 200 paintings.

## DR. ERWIN FLATOW

Mr. Erwin Flatow, M.Ch.Orth., F.R.C.S. died suddenly on August 27, at the age of nearly 77 after a heart attack. Born in Brunswick, he studied in Germany and received his M.D. in 1925. He emigrated in 1933 to Gt Britain. After obtaining British qualifications in Glasgow and Edinburgh, he was made a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons and took the M.Ch.Orth. in Liverpool during the war. He was appointed Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon to the North Manchester Group of Hospitals, which included the Jewish Hospital. He retired from the hospitals in 1965, but continued working as a legal-medical consultant until his death.

Erwin Flatow was well known in Manchester, always willing to advise and help. Not only his many relations and friends all over the world, but also his patients will miss him very much.

## MR. ALEX MOCH

Mr. Alex Moch, who was the founder and until 1939 director of the Jewish agricultural training centre, Landwerk Neuendorf, died in Tel Aviv on September 24 at the age of 86. He left Germany for Kenya, where he worked as a farmer and spent the last years of his retirement in Israel.

## POETESS FOUND DEAD

Thirty-six-year-old Mrs. Tirza Atar, a popular poetess and song-writer, was found dead on the pavement in front of the Tel Aviv block of flats where she lived on the sixth floor. She had just taken her two small children to school. Mrs. Atar was the daughter of one of Israel's most renowned modern Hebrew poets, Nathan Alterman, who died in 1970.

## ATLAS ON HOLOCAUST

The historian Martin Gilbert was commissioned by the Board of Deputies Central Jewish Lecture and Information Committee to compile an historical atlas on the Holocaust. Mr. Gilbert has engaged in extensive research and discovered a wealth of hitherto unpublished material. The work will appear in January, 1978.

Fritz Friedlander (Melbourne)

## A BIOGRAPHY OF HUGO HAASE

Hugo Haase, the German Socialist leader, was assassinated in 1919. Ten years later, his son Ernst wrote the first biography of his father, in which he included a selection of letters. Though written with filial affection, the book was plainly not the work of a professional biographer; Ernst Haase was in fact a physician. Now, after many decades, Kenneth R. Calkins, Associate Professor of Modern History in Kent State University, Ohio, has written the first scholarly life of Hugo Haase. This, translated into German by Arthur Mandel, has appeared under the title *Hugo Haase: Demokrat und Revolutionär* (Colloquium Verlag, Berlin 1976). Years of careful research have gone to the making of this book.

According to Ernst Haase, his father regretted only one step in his political career: his pledge, as chairman of the Social Democratic Party, of his party's financial support of the German war effort at the outbreak of World War I. After the Reich Chancellor, von Bethmann Hollweg, had assured the Social Democrats that Czarist Russia intended to attack Germany, Haase yielded to his colleagues' pressure and to the fear that his refusal might split the party. He therefore read out the declaration of support on August 4, 1914 in the Reichstag.

Hugo Haase's rise in the party had been remarkable. He was born into a Jewish family at Allenstein (East Prussia) on September 29, 1863. While studying law at the University of Königsberg, he fell under the spell of socialist ideals which were to mould his life. He became a lawyer in Königsberg and married Thea Lichtenstein in 1891. The marriage, blessed with three children, was a

happy one, for Thea Haase shared her husband's ideals and interests.

Successful in his profession, Haase gained the confidence of Königsberg's Social Democratic masses, and was elected to the Reichstag from 1897 to 1907 and 1912 to 1918. In 1911, his brilliance and admirable character led to his appointment as party leader with August Bebel. Named as chairman of the Reichstag Social Democrats in the following year, he moved to Berlin. In 1913, Bebel died and Haase continued as leader. With Ebert, he was now the most influential man in the Social Democratic Party.

However, Haase's authority depended on his ability to maintain party unity, no easy task in view of the strong Revisionist movement which he, as an orthodox Marxist, opposed. In the cause of unity, he sacrificed himself and as party spokesman voted for the Government on August 4, 1914.

As the war continued, Haase set the question of Social Democratic attitudes towards war policy above that of party unity. He set his face against German militarism and greed for conquest, submarine warfare which disastrously brought America into the war, and conscription of the civilian population (*vaterländischer Hilfsdienst*). His aims were an immediate conclusion of peace and thoroughgoing social and economic reforms. This brought him into violent conflict with the majority of his party, led by Ebert and Scheidemann, who were tolerant of Imperial Germany's war policy. The final break came in April 1917 when Haase, together with his friends Wilhelm Dittmann and Georg Ledebour, founded the Independent Social Democratic Party. An underhand attempt by the Government to suppress the new party by charging its leader with high treason failed utterly.

When the imperial regime collapsed in 1918, Haase and his friends Dittmann and Emil Barth joined Ebert and Scheidemann, the leaders of the Majority Socialists, to form a provisional government, the Rat der Volksbeauftragten. He believed, with them, that the principle of democracy expressed in parliamentary government must be preserved, although he failed to win his colleagues over to his plan for nationalisation of key industries and replacement of the Imperial Army by a democratically organised Volkswehr. His belief in parliamentary democracy led him to oppose Karl Liebknecht's Spartakusbund and its attempt to establish a Soviet-type Germany. But when the Majority Socialists used former imperial troops to crush the

Spartakus rising, Haase was outraged by the resort to force and, together with Dittmann and Barth, resigned on December 28, 1918.

Convinced that the German people had suffered beyond endurance, Haase exerted the influence of his party to obtain acceptance of the peace terms. This exposed him to the violent hatred of the German nationalists: on October 8, 1919, an attempt was made on his life and a month later, on November 7, he died, deeply mourned by socialists and progressives throughout the world.

As a Marxist, Hugo Haase was not a practising Jew, but never denied his Jewishness. He respected the religious feelings of his parents and parents-in-law, and, in the Weimar National Assembly on July 26, 1919, condemned antisemitic outbursts.

For a man so absorbed in German affairs, Zionism must at first have seemed a strange doctrine. He was present, Kurt Blumenfeld tells us in his memoirs, at a rally in Königsberg where Zionism was attacked. Later, however, its idealism appealed to Haase: he had many Zionist friends and a few months before his death, it is said, he declared that Herzl was an idealist and prophet.

Professor Calkins regards Hugo Haase as a man of integrity, an idealist eager to put the lofty aims of socialism into practice. Nevertheless, his faults are not glossed over: the author, for example, refers to Haase's failure to organise the Independent Social Democratic Party on a firm basis. Also, according to his biographer, he was overmodest and sometimes lacked the energy to assert himself. Maximilian Harden, we are told, called him a "Judeo-Christian Socialist", indicating that Haase's ethical humanism, with its Kantian elements, prevented his unconditional application of Marxian principles.

The biography is supplemented by three personal reminiscences written by Prof. Ernst Hamburger, Prof. Peter Fleischmann and by Haase's nephew, Prof. Walter Friedlaender.

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# THE ISRAELI SCENE

## ISRAEL'S BIRTHDAY PLANS

To celebrate the 30th anniversary of the founding of the State, Israel plans a number of cultural events. The Museum of the Jewish Diaspora will be officially opened on the Tel Aviv Campus where it is now housed in a four-storey building. Six documentary films and reconstructions of different aspects of Jewish life in the diaspora will be shown. Apart from three floors of permanent exhibitions, there will be a large gallery for temporary exhibitions the first of which will be on the Jews of New York. Dr. Nahum Goldmann, president of the World Jewish Congress, conceived the museum idea, the chief designer is Britain's James Gardener who has recently created a Churchill museum for the Sultan of Brunei.

Another plan is the creation of a hall of fame in Jerusalem commemorating Jewish scientific, academic, artistic and political achievements during the past 200 years. The £5 million project is supported by President Katzir, Prime Minister Begin, Mrs Golda Meir, and prominent diaspora figures. Mr. Eliyahu Tal who recently visited Britain to gain support for the hall of fame, said the idea had come to him when he visited the Festival of Islam in London. The Chief Rabbi, Professor Sir Ernst Chain, Sir Isaac Wolfson and Mr. Greville Janner, QC, MP, have agreed to serve on the advisory board.

## DAYAN ACCUSES BRITAIN

Mr. Moshe Dayan said in Jerusalem that in 1949 when he was military commander of Jerusalem, he had negotiated a peace treaty with King Abdullah of Jordan, but the British representative in that country Sir Alec Kirkbridge, had informed the king that Britain would not allow such a treaty being signed. Sir Alec has denied Dayan's allegations.

## REBUFF FROM AUSTRIA

The Israeli Foreign Ministry has protested to the Austrian Ambassador in Jerusalem against the treatment of Israel's representative by the Austrian UN delegation. Austria had submitted a resolution against piracy of the air, but had urged the Israelis to abstain from signing it in order not to upset Arab and Third World signatories. They had then declared in public that Israel had decided too late to sign the resolution.

## ISRAEL WHEAT TO FEED THE STARVING

Israeli experts have developed a new strain of wheat "Gigas" which produces a great deal more than all known wheat strains and offered it to all countries wishing to fight malnutrition. The West German "World Aid for the Starving" organisation will co-operate in experiments to propagate the new strains.

## GRAPEFRUIT AND FOOTWEAR FOR BRITAIN

Israel expects to export about three million grapefruit to Britain this year of which 250,000 are the very early Yarden River brand now on sale in British shops. The Israel Citrus Marketing Board have fixed their selling prices at a level to benefit customers after the recent shortage. Another rising export figure is that of footwear — 80 per cent of Israel's footwear, to the tune of £1,500,000, goes to Britain this year. This includes boots and shoes for ladies' and men's leather casuals. Most of them are manufactured in Kibbutz factories in the Upper Galilee.

## EL AL SPREADS ITS WINGS

New cheap charter holidays in Israel will be available from March. A week's inclusive tour at a 3-star hotel with bed and breakfast will cost from £130, a 4-star hotel from £170. The prices for two weeks are £165 and £200 respectively. Flights on Boeings 720 which carry 172 passengers, will leave Luton for Tel Aviv every Thursday. Originally these flights were intended for Christian pilgrims, and the packages will carry a "Holiday for Pilgrims" label, but there will be no restrictions imposed. The price also includes visits to Holy Places. The flights will continue throughout the summer.

## ISRAEL AND SOUTH AFRICA

An article in the London "Economist" reveals that there has been an understanding between Israel and South Africa since 1967. After De Gaulle imposed his arms embargo on Israel, South Africa supplied the Israelis with spare parts for their French-made weapons. With discreet encouragement from Dr. Kissinger, Israel is said to have supplied the South Africans with equipment, military intelligence and technicians when they intervened in Angola to offset the Cuban invasion. South Africa is also supporting Israel's own defence industry to make the country less dependent on American supplies. In return for special steel, coal and financial help, Israel supplies South Africa with the results of her military technology. Israeli technicians are supposed to be erecting an electrified wall and laying a carpet of electronic sensors along the South African borders and building a new type of missile boat with a helicopter carrier deck. They are also alleged to refit South African armoured vehicles with their own type of armour plating for which South Africa supplies the special steel.

## FAMILY EVENTS

Entries in the column Family Events are free of charge; any voluntary donation would, however, be appreciated. Texts should be sent in by 15th of the month.

### Birthdays

The AJR Club extends heartiest congratulations to Miss Kate Benjamin, one of our most generous members, on the occasion of her 80th birthday, and to Mrs. Hertha Gelhar, the Bazaar Queen. Happy birthday greetings on December 26, in gratitude for her untiring helping hands.

### Deaths

**Flatow.** — Mr. Erwin Flatow, F.R.C.S. died suddenly and unexpectedly in hospital on August 27 at the age of nearly 77 years. Very much missed by everybody. Gerty and Norbert Gosliner.

**Klein.** — Mrs. Ella Klein (née Baum), of 72 Ladybarn Lane, Fallowfield, Manchester 14, dearly beloved wife of David Klein, died on November 4, at Manchester Royal Infirmary. Deeply mourned by her husband, relatives and many friends.

**Leyser.** — Felix Leyser, formerly Chemnitz, died suddenly in San Francisco on October 29, aged 81. Deeply mourned by his sister, Meta Pohl, N.Y., nieces and nephews, and Paula Leyser.

**Munzer.** — Erika Munzer (née Hirschmann), formerly Juedische Wohlfahrtspflege, Frankfurt/Main, died peacefully on November 6. Sadly missed by her husband, relatives and friends.

**Sulzbacher.** — Dr. Max Sulzbacher (formerly Bamberg, Bavaria) died suddenly on September 27, 1977. Deeply mourned by his wife, Lottie, and relatives, and sadly missed by his friends.

**Sulzbacher.** — Mrs. Netty Sulzbacher (née Manes), widow of Dr. Paul Sulzbacher, passed away on November 9, after a long illness. Deeply mourned and sadly missed by her family and friends.

**Wolff.** — Frieda Wolff passed away peacefully after a long illness on November 7. Mourned by her sister, Margot Besser, relatives and friends.

**Zeisel.** — Helene Zeisel, resident of Otto Schiff House, passed away peacefully in hospital on October 24, aged 82. She had no near relatives but she will always be remembered by her friends.

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## Miscellaneous

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**LUCIE KRONER.** Attention relatives and friends of the late Lucie Kroner of Weymouth Street, London. The Division of Archaeology (Classical Studies) Tel Aviv University is erecting Reference Shelves (subject: Roman Israel) bearing the name of the deceased. Donations for the purchase of books are urgently requested. For further information please contact Professor Mordechai Gichon, Tel Aviv University.

## Situations Vacant

**WE WOULD WELCOME** to hear from more ladies who would be willing to shop and cook for an elderly person in their neighbourhood on a temporary or permanent basis. Current rate of pay £1.25 per hour. We also need ladies who would be prepared to sleep out for shorter or longer periods. No nursing duties. Rate of pay between £3 and £5 per night. Please ring Mrs. M. Casson, 01-624 4449, AJR Employment, for appointment.

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## Personal

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**WIDOW,** in her 60s, independent, no children, own comfortable house, is looking for a widower who may perhaps be lonely; must be a thoughtful and considerate gentleman, who may like to build up a friendly companionship; when replying, please give telephone number.—Box 694.

**REFINED AND ATTRACTIVE** widow, 57, would like to meet a refined widower or unattached man living in or around Manchester; view to friendship, maybe marriage.—Box 695.

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# NEWS FROM GERMANY

## NEO-NAZIS APPROVE MURDER

In the "Nationalsozialistische Reichszeitung", published by the neo-Nazi Wolf Dietrich Eckart, Hamburg, there is a poem welcoming the murder of the State Prosecutor Siegfried Buback who is referred to as "Jewish mercenary" and "Supreme State Rabbi".

## JUBILEE OF TUEBINGEN UNIVERSITY

The University of Tübingen which has always had many Jewish students, especially in the legal and medical field, is celebrating its 500th anniversary this year. Among the many festive concerts, there was one where the "Young Israel Strings", the string orchestra of Tel Aviv University, played. The Leopold-Lucas Prize of the University was awarded to the historians Elias J. Bickerman, New York, and Professor Shmuel Sambursky, of the Hebrew University. The prize of DM 6,000 was donated by Franz D. Lucas, Consul General in Bolivia, to commemorate his father, Dr. Leopold Lucas, born in Tübingen, for many years rabbi in Glogau and lecturer at the Berlin Hochschule für die Wissenschaft des Judentums, who died in Theresienstadt in 1943. E.G.L.

## OUTRAGEOUS PLO SPEECH

The Public Prosecutor has started proceedings against Abdallah Frangi, the "official" representative of the PLO in Bonn, who said at a Communist meeting in West Berlin, that the only way to end the Middle East conflict was to remove the "Zionist creation". In answer to protests by the Central Council of Jews in Germany and by the Social Democratic Party, a spokesman for the Berlin Senate said that the Senate regretted that such things had been said and shared the indignation of the entire Berlin population.

## UNFIT TO STAND TRIAL

The Hanover Court adjourned *sine die* a case against 78-year-old Johannes von Dollen, once the head of the office for Jewish affairs in the Security Police in the Polish town of Bilgora. The court announced that von Dollen was too sick to stand trial, but that he would almost certainly have been convicted of having been an accessory to murder in more than a hundred cases. The trial against three of his former colleagues is to continue, but two more cases had been suspended previously for the same reasons.

## STRAUSS WANTS TO FORGET

CSU chairman Franz Joseph Strauss gave an interview to the Cairo newspaper "Al Ahram" in which he said: "We do not want to be reminded of our past by anybody, neither by Washington, nor by Moscow, nor by our European neighbours, nor by Tel Aviv. Such reminders prevent us from making our contribution to a just and peaceful development of world affairs". He advocated a "tolerable" compromise in the Middle East which would only be possible if all concerned realised that another war would mean a terrible set-back for many years to come.

## ISRAELIS AT THE FRANKFURT BOOK FAIR

Twenty Israeli publishers shared a stand at this year's Frankfurt Book Fair. Among the items displayed was a facsimile edition of the Aleppo-Codex, the most complete Bible manuscript in existence which had cost \$460 to make. The Codex is the first complete text of the Bible and contains many detailed notes by Maimonides. It was first published in 900, and the text has been researched for the last twenty years by a special research team at the Hebrew University which has just released it for publication. A book on offer at the stand was a "Who's Who" of Jewish personalities all over the world, containing 21,000 names.

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# THEATRE AND CULTURE

100 years ago. For Max Pallenberg, who was born in December, 1877, the word tragi-comedian could have been invented. According to his biographer, he saw life as an eternal fight between man and machine, and this often manifested itself when he was portraying the 'small' man; he screamed and protested but eventually, had to bow in front of the inevitable. You could love him in the parts he played but you could also fear him, for his clowning had elements of fire, hate and destruction. In other parts his tragic downfall was caused by weakness and downright stupidity. Whether Schwejk or Mephisto, whether a great man or a wretched creature, his fantasy appeared inexhaustible, and the way he could turn despair into laughter, how tragic events could be brought to change a man's character, how his voice could announce rebellion and accusation against all humanity, all this was acting of one of the real "Greats".

He played Molnar (his "Liliom" is unforgettable); he was brilliant in the same author's One Act play "Eins, zwei, drei", the story of a "Generaldirektor" for whom there is simply no obstacle in achieving his aims, in a whirl of eloquence which, seemingly, not only made him speak without interruption, but doing so simultaneously on a variety of subjects whereby his own (private) life just gave him time for an occasional interjection. The way Pallenberg mastered this role—perhaps not attempted by any other actor since—how he raged in a frenzy, thus putting himself on a par with an engine geared to record action

—that was artistic magic, unequalled and unsurpassed.

He enriched operetta (e.g., Offenbach's "Orpheus in the Underworld", Kalman's "Herbstmanöver"), he played Bernard Shaw and Hofmannsthal, he was in stage comedies and in films, and in every field Pallenberg, the great tragi-comedian, was considered unique, whether he made an elaborate speech or just embraced a vase with an inimitable gesture of helplessness.

Max Pallenberg's unshakeable belief that the "little" man had to yield to the mechanical giants proved only too true; he got killed in 1934 at the zenith of his career when he entrusted his life to an aeroplane. His wife, the popular actress and chanteuse, *Fritzi Massary*, survived him for nearly 40 years.

**Modern German Film.** As nowadays we only get occasional glimpses of new German films in this country, the recent showing of "Erika's Leidenschaften" (1976) was a notable event at the National Film Theatre. One of the stars was Vera Tschechowa, Olga's granddaughter.

**Obituary.** *Elisabeth Flickenschildt*, who has died at Stade, Germany, at the age of 72, was one of Germany's most representative actresses. She appeared in Munich, Berlin and many other cities, as well as in films. Her part of Frau Marthe Schwerdtlein in a "Faust" production with Gruendgens and Quadflieg is particularly well remembered.

## Letter to the Editor

### JEWES IN DUESSELDORF

Sir,—I am preparing a book about the "Judenpolitik" in Duesseldorf during the years 1933 to 1945. For this purpose I am in urgent need of material such as letters, documents, photos, personal reminiscences etc, and should be grateful to any of your readers, who might lend me their assistance.

FELIX BLASCHKA

Am Krausen Baum 8  
D-4000 Duesseldorf 31  
West Germany.

### Josef Kastein

Mr. Alfred Dreyer, retired Rector of a West German Pedagogical Seminar, is preparing a work about the late Josef Kastein, particularly well-known by his work "Eine Geschichte der Juden". Mr. Dreyer, who knew Kastein personally, would be grateful to any readers who could provide him with reminiscences and unpublished material by or about Josef Kastein. His address is: Benquestr. 38, 2800 Bremen 1, West Germany.

### MEETING OF EX-PRISONERS OF WAR

The 18th annual meeting in Duesseldorf of the "Arbeitskreis Featherstone Park", which was founded by the former inmates of that camp, was addressed by Mrs. Lynda Chalker, M.P. on "Building Bridges" and by Hubertus Prinz zu Loewenstein on "Vereinigtes Europa: Wunschbild oder Wirklichkeit". Apart from former camp inmates, many German friends of the "Arbeitskreis" (including members of the younger generation) attended the function. The Hon. President of the "Arbeitskreis" is Mr. Herbert Sulzbach who was education officer of the camp during the war.

S.B.

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